

STARS AND STRIPES®

Packers get key call, big kick vs. Vikings
Back page



Packers kicker Ryan Longwell

Memorial service in Vilseck honors 4 killed in Iraq
Page 4



Heche works her way back to sanity, stardom
Page 20

Actress Anne Heche

Volume 63, No. 213 © EPSS 2004

G

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004

50¢

Powell, three others resign from Cabinet

Secretary of State to stay until successor named Page 11



Wounded recount Fallujah battle, vow to return to Iraq
Troops describe well-prepared rebels, weapon stockpiles
Page 3



ABOVE: MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes TOP LEFT: AP

Above: From left, Army Spc. Kris Clinkscales and Marine Lance Cpls. Travis Schafer, Ryan Chapman and Jeffery Owens, all wounded during fighting in Fallujah, Iraq, talk to the media Monday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. Top left: Chapman, from Lawrence, Kan., talks to the media during the news conference. "Everyone keeps telling me I'm lucky. I'll go with that. It's nothing too serious. [The bullet] cracked my skull, but it looks worse than it really is," Chapman said.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Grill the bird
this ThanksgivingComing Thursday,
Nov. 18Map of U.S.
bases in IraqDon't miss a
single issue.For home delivery,
call DSN 349-8437STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	23
American Roundup	18-19
Classified	24-26
Comics	21-23
Crossword	22
Faces	20
Horoscope	21
Letters	14
Opinion	14-15
Sports	26-36
TV listings	17
Weather	12
Your Money	11

NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

States

Blake murder trial: Defense attorneys for Robert Blake are looking for jurors who may be open to conspiracy theories.

Prosecutors, on the other hand, want people who use common sense and make quick decisions.

More than three years after Blake's wife was shot to death outside a San Fernando Valley restaurant, the selection process for more than 100 potential jurors was to begin Monday in the actor's murder trial.

Blake, former star of the "Baretta" TV series and the movie "In Cold Blood," is charged with murder in the death of his wife, Bonnie Lee Bakley, whom he married after DNA tests showed he was the father of her baby.

New N.J. governor sworn in: Gov. James E. McGreevey submitted his letter of resignation on Monday, ending a tenure doomed by a shocking summertime disclosure he had engaged in a gay, extramarital affair.

The letter, signed by McGreevey, was filed with Secretary of State Regina Thomas. It says, "Dear Madam Secretary, I resign effective 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2004."

On Sunday, state Senate President Richard Codey took the oath of office as acting governor in a private ceremony at his home. He takes over once McGreevey has officially left the job at midnight.

New bishop elected: A bishop whose diocese plans to seek bankruptcy protection from billions of dollars in clergy sex abuse claims was elected in Washington on Monday as the next president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., was elected overwhelmingly to succeed Bishop Wilton Gregory of Belleville, Ill., who is ending his three-year term after leading the conference through the height of the clergy sex abuse crisis.

Advocates for abuse victims had opposed the Skylstad's candidacy, saying he was trying to avoid responsibility for mishandling priests who molested young people. Some church observers had also wondered whether the bishops would want their top leader to come from a diocese embroiled in abuse-related financial problems.

McCain backs CIA shake-up: Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on Sunday supported CIA Director Porter Goss's shake-up of the intelligence agency, which he described as "dysfunctional" and not providing President Bush with the information needed to conduct the war on terrorism.

Reacting to stories about potential resignations of CIA officials in response to actions taken by Goss and his staff, McCain, appearing on ABC's "This Week," said, "A shake-up is absolutely necessary."

McCain said that although the agency has "good and decent people" it had become dysfunctional and that "a shake-up is absolutely necessary."

Human smuggling plea: A woman pleaded guilty Monday to her role in a human smuggling operation in which 19 illegal immigrants died after boarding a sweltering trailer.

Norma Gonzalez Sanchez was set to go to



Turkey marks anniversary of attacks: Nermi Sahin, center, whose son was killed following a suicide attack last year at an Istanbul synagogue, lays flowers Monday at the scene of the blast in Istanbul. Turkish Jews and Muslims cried in the rain and recited prayers of mourning as they marked the first anniversary of suicide bombings that struck two Istanbul synagogues in attacks blamed on a local al-Qaida cell.

trial on Nov. 29 with three other defendants who prosecutors say were involved in the smuggling operation, the nation's deadliest. She pleaded guilty to a charge of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants into the United States and causing serious injury or death to a person as a result.

World

Iraq elections: Along with their monthly ration of sugar, rice and flour, Iraqis are receiving a piece of paper promoted as a key to a democratic Iraq: a voter registration sheet.

Iraqis will choose a national assembly, which among other things will draft a permanent constitution. If the document is ratified in a referendum, another election will be held in December 2005.

Voter registration began Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 15, with authorities using a Saddam Hussein-era database for food rationing to create the initial voter list. When Iraqis receive their monthly ration, they get a sheet of paper listing members of each family.

Dollar value drops in Cuba: The value of a dollar in Cuba dropped to 90 cents on Monday as a surcharge on the American greenback took effect, the latest step in the island nation's conversion from an economy based on U.S. currency to one using the new convertible peso.

Cubans and tourists lined up to change dollars into pesos over the weekend. As of last week, U.S. currency no longer was accepted at Cuban stores, restaurants, hotels or other businesses, and the new 10 percent surcharge is meant to further discourage

people from bringing currency from Cuba's No. 1 enemy to the island.

President Fidel Castro has said the widespread use of the American money was being halted to guarantee Cuba's economic independence.

Afghan militants set new deadline: Taliban-linked militants threatening to kill three U.N. hostages gave the government until Monday night to reach a deal for their release, while Afghan officials said negotiations had been postponed amid disagreements over ransom demands.

Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, British-Irish Annette Flanagan, and Shihe Hebi of Kosovo were seized at gunpoint on Oct. 28 — the first abduction of foreigners in the capital since the fall of the Taliban three years ago.

The purported leader of Jaish-ul-Muhammed, which is seeking the release of 26 militants in exchange for the trio, told The Associated Press that the new deadline for an agreement was 10 p.m. Monday.

War crimes trial: U.N. prosecutors promised witnesses would help prove war crimes charged against three former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army whose trial began Monday — the first ethnic Albanians to face charges stemming from the Kosovo war at the Hague tribunal.

Prosecutors accused Fatmir Limaj, Haradin Bala and Isak Musliu of murder, torture and imprisonment of Serb civilians, as well as "perceived Albanian collaborators" during the 1998-1999 conflict.

All have pleaded innocent.

Japan, N. Korea talks: Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Monday he was not satisfied with the outcome of North Korea's investigation into the fate of several Japanese nationals abducted decades ago by the communist country's spies.

He said Tokyo has not ruled out the possibility of economic sanctions.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s to train them in Japanese language and culture. The regime released five in 2002 but has said the other eight died — a claim many Japanese don't believe.

Japanese officials returned Monday on a chartered flight from North Korea with what Pyongyang says are the remains of a woman kidnapped 26 years ago, according to media reports. They also carried the documented possessions of seven other Japanese citizens.

Basque plan rejected: Spain's justice minister rejected a new proposal on Monday from Basque militants for talks to end the region's long-running conflict, saying they must first explicitly renounce violence.

At a rally Sunday in San Sebastian, former members of the banned party Batasuna — seen as the political wing of the armed group ETA — unveiled a 7-point plan for a new peace process before a crowd of 15,000 people chanting slogans in support of ETA.

The blueprint contained two key policy shifts: dialogue among all parties in the region, including those which oppose the idea of Basque independence, as a step toward some kind of referendum on the region's future. Until now Batasuna had limited such dialogue to Basque nationalist parties.

Stories and photo from wire services

You'll feel warm all over with some

Holiday Cash

From Service Credit Union

7.74%
35 basis point discount available with direct deposit and automatic loan payment
Contact us for details!
APPLY TODAY!

Service
Credit Union

www.servicecu.com

24 Hour Contact Center
800-874-2200

*Rate shown is Annual Percentage Rate, accurate as of 10/16/04 and subject to change without notice. Rates and terms determined by the actual creditworthiness of each applicant. Must be a member of SCU or eligible for membership to apply for credit. See current SCU fees which apply for additional fees. SCU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, marital status, or other special circumstances. NCUA



BRADLEY SAPP/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors man the rails awaiting liberty call aboard the destroyer USS Fletcher earlier this year in San Diego. The former Pearl Harbor-based ship is part of the Navy's Sea Swap Initiative, a program that rotates four crews through a single ship at six-month intervals.

Problems with Sea Swap cited in GAO report

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTY, Spain — A highly touted Navy program that swaps crews at sea may offer some benefits, but a new congressional report shows that trial runs have also produced poor sailor morale and ship maintenance problems.

The Government Accountability Office reported last Wednesday that the service also has not backed up its claims that rotating crews is a cheaper and better way to do business.

Investigators determined the Sea Swap Initiative could take a long-term toll on ships and dropped a heavy workload on crews. Many sailors in each of the focus groups complained about poor morale and quality of life because they had to spend more time maintaining the ships. Crewmembers aboard patrol coastal ships, for example, complained that they could not have any port visits because they were too busy tackling maintenance issues.

Sailors aboard the USS Higgins and patrol coastal ships disliked the swap so much that they reported "a strong desire to not participate on any more crew rotations implemented like their most recent experience," the report said.

The GAO found that re-enlistments were generally lower on guided-missile destroyers that swapped crews compared with similar Pacific Fleet ships that didn't swap crews, but the Defense Department wrote that the Navy found "significant different" figures.

The report said rotating crews is a possible alternative to the traditional way of sailors leaving and returning with their ships. But in-

vestigators recommended that the Navy do a better job evaluating the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of swapping crews, establish standard procedures for rotations and make sure commanders share "lessons learned." The Defense Department agreed with the suggestions and cited how changes would be made.

While senior Navy officials have sung the praises of Sea Swap as a way to save money and slash personnel, the latest report mirrored an earlier study by the Center for Naval Analyses, a federally funded research and development group.

The center found that swapping crews had been successful, but the Navy should address morale and maintenance problems. Surveys showed that 84 percent of the crews who handed over their ship to another crew said participating in the swap was worse than expected.

The Navy started rotating crews about two years ago, when three Spruance-class destroyers began the first phases of the first rotation.

The Sea Swap Initiative involves deploying one ship for 18 months or longer and rotating crews. Here's how it works: Instead of crews driving the ship back to the United States after a deployment, they fly home and new crew is flown in to replace them.

By eliminating long transit times, the Navy says crews will have more time to execute their missions. The Navy has tested the concept with smaller ships but is looking at expanding the program to larger ships such as amphibious assault ships.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.strips.com

Soldiers at Landstuhl recall hard-fought Fallujah battles

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Getting the Purple Heart Medal for his war wounds doesn't mean Spc. Kris Clinkscales is a hero.

"Getting the Purple Heart just means the rocket found me," quipped the 22-year-old sniper from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Clinkscales spoke with reporters Monday while recuperating from wounds sustained a week ago in the massive offensive on the one-time insurgent stronghold of Fallujah. He took shrapnel to his right elbow and has temporarily lost some movement in the hand.

The four wounded servicemen paraded in front of the throngs of media representatives at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center were in good spirits and up to cracking periodic jokes between renditions of how they sustained their wounds.

Lance Cpl. Ryan Chapman, 22, of Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., took a bullet to the head from a sniper he had been hunting.

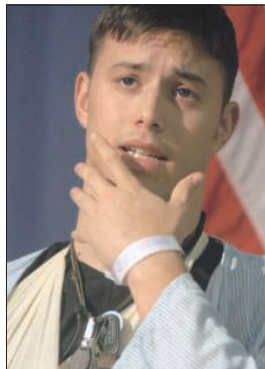
"Everyone keeps telling me I'm lucky. I'll go with that," said the TOW missile launcher. "It's nothing too serious. [The bullet] cracked my skull, but it looks worse than it really is."

Since Saturday, the U.S. Army hospital has received 223 battle-injury patients from Iraq, of whom 16 are in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit and 196 already have been medevaced to stateside hospitals for further treatment, spokeswoman Marie Shaw said.

The four troops described the fierce battles they faced and the wounds that put them on operating tables, most for multiple surgeries.

The insurgents were well prepared for the offensive, the troops said. They effectively set up organized fighting positions throughout the city, strategically hid snipers, and blanketed the city with make-shift bombs.

Amid the huge stockpile of AK-47s, ammunition, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars available to the insurgents "shocked" U.S. and Iraqi forces as they launched their massive attack on the city, said



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Talking to the media at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, Spc. Kris Clinkscales, who was wounded in Iraq, explains how insurgents in Fallujah wore masks over their faces, easily separating them from the general population of the Iraqi city.

Lance Cpl. Jeffery Owens, a supply clerk and machine gunner with Headquarters & Support Company, also with the 3-1. Owens received shrapnel wounds to his left calf.

Clinkscales, who had been in Iraq since March and participated in major offensives in Najaf in August, said the battle for Fallujah was far worse.

The one soldier and three Marines said they saw only dead insurgents in the streets of Fallujah, no civilian casualties.

Eventually, Iraqi forces drew out insurgents or forced them to flee the southern city.

"It was like playing tag as kids, and they'd come out and then run back to their safe base," Clinkscales said of the Najaf offensive.

For months, Fallujah had been a "no-go" zone, a designation that kept forces on the brim of the city and allowed insurgents to build their arsenal.

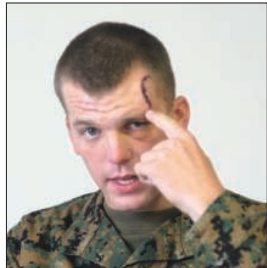
The one soldier and three Marines said they saw only dead insurgents in the streets of Fallujah, no civilian casualties.

It was easy for the troops to distinguish between the two, Clinkscales said. Aside from the obvious clue of armed men traveling in packs, the insurgents typically are young men, ages 18 to 23, who made it a point to cover their faces often with dark-colored scarves and did not wear the typical long, light-colored robes that the men wear.

Despite it all, the four said they'd return if they could. None sustained wounds that will require them to leave the military.

"If I could get a helmet on," Chapman said, pointing to the huge knot on the left side of his head, "I'd go back. No. My brothers are still there."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: sjontz@strips.com



Lance Cpl. Ryan Chapman points to where a bullet went under his helmet, wounding him during the fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. He is being treated at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

More copies of 'Halo 2' expected

If your trigger finger is itching for some aliens, don't despair if you didn't land a copy of "Halo 2" last week. Re-enforcements have arrived and more are on the way.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service sold all 25,000 of its copies of the space marines-vs.-aliens game for Microsoft's Xbox. exchange spokesman Judd Anstey said Monday. However, 6,000 more copies were due in stores worldwide Monday and another 10,000 are sched-

uled to arrive next Monday, he said.

The AAFES sales were just a small part of last week's "Halo 2" invasion. The highly anticipated game saw a phenomenal \$125 million in sales its first 24 hours of availability, The Associated Press reported.

The original "Halo" was a very popular first-person shooter, creating a ready market for the follow-up version. Boosting the new game's appeal are better graphics and expanded online competition.

Stars and Stripes

Wileseck memorial service to commemorate 4 fallen in Iraq

Ceremony to honor command sergeant major, three soldiers who died last week

Stars and Stripes

WILSECK, Germany — The memorial service Wednesday in Wileseck for the command sergeant major of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, will include three more of the battalion's soldiers who were killed in Fallujah last week.

The service originally was planned for Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg, 45, of Huntington, Ind. Faulkenburg was killed Nov. 9 during fighting in Fallujah.

The unit had sent a team of grief coun-

slors last week to help soldiers and families deal with the loss of Faulkenburg, who was active in the Wileseck community, according to Maj. Brian Maddox, executive officer for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division Rear Detachment.

Since then, three more 2-2 Infantry soldiers have died in Fallujah, according to Spc. Rebecca Sharpton, a 1st Infantry Division spokeswoman.

First Lt. Edward Iwan, 28, of Albion, Neb., was killed Friday when a rocket-prop-

elled grenade struck his Bradley fighting vehicle.

Sgt. James Matteson, 23, of Celoron, N.Y., also died Friday when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley.

Sharpton did not know if the two soldiers were in the same Bradley.

The name of the third Wileseck-based soldier killed in Iraq has not been released, pending next-of-kin notification.

Additional details surrounding the deaths of the other three soldiers were not available.

Airman pleads guilty

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — An airman assigned to the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron pleaded guilty to charges of cocaine use and distribution in a general court-martial Friday.

Judge (Col.) William Burd sentenced Airman 1st Class Gregory Rader to a year in prison without any salary or benefits, a reduction in rank to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge. Rader had pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted possession of cocaine and another charge of use, possession, distribution and introduction of the illegal drug onto the base.

He is the seventh airman to be sentenced in the largest drug case in base history. Agents from the 31st Security Forces Squadron and Office of Special Investigations Detachment S31 conducted an investigation late in 2003, that led to an on-base raid Dec. 13, 2003, that netted a dozen suspects.

More trials are pending.

From staff reports

German POWs buried in U.S. to be honored

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

The Associated Press

FORT BENNING, Ga. — They are foreign enemies buried thousands of miles from home, but they are not forgotten.

Less than a week after U.S. soldiers were honored during Veterans Day, dignitaries on Wednesday are to gather and salute the hundreds of thousands of German prisoners of war taken to camps in the United States during World War II — most of them in the South.

"The minimum you can do is honor these soldiers who sacrificed," said Lt. Col. Herbert R. Sladek, a member of Fort Benning's German Army liaison team, which hosts "Volkstrauertag" — Germany's day of mourning.

"They were educated in another time period, with another political guideline. In their opinion, they also fought for freedom, liberty and for their fatherland. That's why these people gave all they had — their own lives."

The camps are an all-but-forgotten part of history, but the prisoners did leave some remnants behind in southern Georgia and throughout the country. Some of them went on to become leaders of postwar Germany.

During World War II, the United States, which had little previous experience with foreign POWs, hastily threw up 700 internment camps to detain 425,000 enemy soldiers, who were arriving sometimes at a rate of 30,000 a month.

The German internees are still remembered for their skills and hard work. With most of America's young men overseas, the POWs helped overcome a labor shortage by harvesting crops and doing other physical labor for 80 cents a day.

"Volkstrauertag," held in Germany on the third Sunday of November, started after World War I as Germans struggled to come to terms with the loss of 5 million countrymen.

On Wednesday, the ceremony at Fort Benning cemetery is expected to honor 44 German soldiers, including a highly decorated general.

U.S. Army musicians will play the German equivalent of taps.

Among the invited guests are the German consul general in Atlanta and Fort Benning's commander, Brig. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley. Others include members of Rolling Thunder, a motorcycle club that focuses on POW-MIA issues and "Klub Heimatland," a German women's group that tends

the graves.

"They are German soldiers and we feel like we want to pay our respects to them," said Inge Wills, the club's president. "It means something for us to do this for the families who cannot do it."

About 860 of the German POWs are buried at 43 sites across the United States, according to the German War Graves Commission, a private charity based in Germany that registers, maintains and cares for the graves of the country's war dead abroad. They died from illnesses, accidents and other causes.

The largest number, 108, are buried at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tenn., which also has the graves of 78 World War I German POWs. Other major burial sites are Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with 133, Fort Riley, Kan., with 63 and Fort Reno, Okla., with 62, including the grave of a POW who was murdered by six fellow prisoners. They were executed.

Georgia had 40 camps with 11,800 prisoners at places like Fort Benning and what is now Fort Stewart near Savannah and Moody Air Force Base, near Valdosta. There were many smaller camps in rural areas such as Fargo, on the edge of the Okfenokee Swamp.

Lt. Gen. Willibald Borowitz, who was killed in an auto accident on July 1, 1945, is the highest-ranking POW buried at Fort Benning.

According to his headstone, he received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves — the equivalent of the U.S. Medal of Honor.

"German POWs were treated very well," said Arnold Krammer, a Texas A&M history professor who has written several books on German POWs. "In some cases they were given wine and beer with every meal. Of course, prison is still prison. They were bored and unhappy."

But thousands returned to Germany fluent in English and "having a new love and respect for the United States," Krammer said. Many climbed into the hierarchy of the postwar government, while others became business executives, writers and artists, he said.

U.S. farmers paid the government for the POWs' work and the government then paid the POWs.

"Each prisoner could take back several hundred dollars or more, which helped lubricate the German economy," Krammer said. "It was one of those programs that just worked out for everybody."

"The minimum you can do is honor these soldiers who sacrificed. In their opinion, they also fought for freedom, liberty and for their fatherland."

Lt. Col. Herbert R. Sladek

Fort Benning's German Army liaison team



Lt. Col. Herbert R. Sladek, left, the German liaison officer at Fort Benning and the other member of the liaison team, Sgt. Maj. Peter O'Grady, stand over the grave of a highly decorated general at Fort Benning Cemetery, Ga., on Thursday. Dignitaries will gather at the Fort Benning Cemetery, where 44 German POWs are buried on Wednesday to celebrate "Volkstrauertag," Germany's day of mourning.

Lethal clashes continue throughout Iraq

Marine colonel calls Fallujah 'basically secure,' but still dangerous

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Fierce battles between insurgents and U.S. and Iraqi forces killed at least 27 people on Monday in Baquba and south of Baghdad — the latest in a wave of clashes that has swept Iraq's Sunni Muslim heartland even as American forces move against the last remaining pockets of resistance in Fallujah.

U.S. forces have now secured "100 percent of Fallujah," according to Col. Michael Regner, operations director of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The city is basically secure, and we can go wherever we want," Regner told Pentagon reporters Monday afternoon from Camp Fallujah, a remote Marine base just outside the city.

Securing the city, however, is not the same as fully controlling it, Regner said, adding that "some portions of the city are more clear than others."

Earlier Monday, a convoy of ambulances and relief supplies trying to enter Fallujah was forced to turn back because the fighting made it too dangerous, the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent said. The Red Crescent and Red Cross have been unable to gain access to people inside Fallujah during more than a week of violence.

Marines have detained 1,052 apparent fighters, Regner said, of whom only a handful — no more than 20 — appear to be foreign fighters.

Meanwhile, Marines are now involved with the city of Ramadi, the provisional seat of Al Anbar province, Regner said.

"For a week now, [Ramadi] has been tougher," Regner said, prompting the Marines to send in

two full battalions of fighters to quell fighting in the past 48 hours.

Marines have found "a number of weapons caches, and a number of terrorists have been killed or captured" in Ramadi, Regner said. "But it is not a cleared city."

Regner said that some of the anti-coalition fighters in Ramadi and other Iraq cities could be fighters who escaped from Fallujah at some point during the battle, which is now in its eighth day.

According to Regner, "we have had 37 Marines and soldiers killed in action" in the fighting in Fallujah, while there was one "noncombat death" in the city over the weekend, which he did not define.

There have been 320 U.S. forces wounded in action, Regner said, with 134 of those "returned to duty" after receiving medical attention.

Heavy explosions rocked Baghdad's Green Zone after nightfall Monday, triggering two huge plumes of smoke.

There was no immediate explanation for the blasts, which hit at 8:30 p.m. The heavily fortified Green Zone, the home of the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, lies on the western bank of the Tigris River.

Loudspeakers boomed across the river, warning "Take cover, take cover."

Even as the fighting continued in the city, Iraq's interior minister declared victory in the offensive. "Fallujah is no more a safe haven for the terrorists and killers. This thing is over," Falah Hassan al-Naqib told reporters in Baghdad.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the leader of a militant group behind the killing of some foreign hostages had been captured.

Mosayad Ahmed Yasseen, leader of the group Muhammad's Army, was captured along with an unspecified number of his followers, Allawi said.

Allawi's office confirmed that two of his female relatives who were kidnapped last week have been released. Allawi's cousin, Ghazi Allawi, 75, his cousin's wife and his cousin's pregnant daughter-in-law were abducted at gunpoint last Tuesday in western Baghdad's Yarmouk neighborhood. There was no word on the cousin.

On Sunday, U.S. Marines found the disemboweled body of a Western woman wrapped in a blood-soaked blanket on a street in Fallujah. The woman could not be immediately identified, but the only Western women known to have been taken hostage are Briton Margaret Hassan, 59, director of CARE International in Iraq, and Teresa Borz, Khalifa, 54, a Polish-born longtime resident of Iraq.

Outside Fallujah, U.S. and Iraqi troops and insurgents clashed in several cities across a belt of central and northern Iraq, including Baquba, Ramadi, Mosul and Suwayrah, south of Baghdad.

In Baquba, insurgents attacked 1st Infantry Division soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire near a traffic circle and police station, officials said.

During the fighting, U.S. troops came under fire from a mosque, the U.S. military said. Iraqi security stormed the mosque and found rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds and other weapons and ammunition, the statement said.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.



U.S. Marines of the 1st division enter a house to take up position in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on Monday. U.S. ground forces were trying to corner the remaining resistance in the city.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday at least 1,186 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 903 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday.

The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update over the weekend.

The AP count is 20 higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,048 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 794 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
 - Marine Cpl. Kevin J. Dempsey, 23, of Monroe, Conn.; killed Saturday in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.
 - Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, 19, of Las Vegas; died Friday in a vehicle incident while conducting combat operations in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
 - Army Sgt. James C. Matteson, 23, Celoron, N.Y.; died Friday in Fallujah when a grenade struck his vehicle; assigned to the

Army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Wesley J. Canning, 21, of Friendswood, Texas; killed Wednesday in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Maj. Horst G. Moore, 38, of San Antonio, Texas; died Tuesday in Mosul when enemy mortar rounds detonated within his unit living area; assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army 1st Lt. Edward D. Iwan, 28, Albion, Neb.; died Friday in Fallujah when a grenade struck his vehicle; assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

■ Army Sgt. Jonathan B. Shields, 25, Atlanta; died Friday in Fallujah when he was accidentally struck by a tank; assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Spc. Raymond L. White, 22, Elwood, Ind.; died Friday in Baghdad when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire; assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. David M. Branning, 21, Cockeysville, Md.; killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina, 20, Woodbridge, Va.; killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Get Into

High Gear

with Low Rates.

Auto Loan Rates
as low as

3.37%

APR

Visit one of our banking centers for more information.

CommunityBank

www.DoDCommunityBank.com

Sponsored by Bank of America Member FDIC

Engineers fortify Iraq-Syria border

Soldiers take a break from urban combat to build forts for Iraqi troops

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

NEAR SINJAR, Iraq — A long, sandy berm is all that separates the flat, empty border between northwestern Iraq and Syria.

But soldiers with the 276th Engineer Battalion from the Virginia National Guard are building 15 rudimentary forts that they say will help seal the porous border.

"There was nothing out here," said the Company A commander, Capt. Jonathan Gray, who is in charge of the project which spans nearly 150 miles.

The forts serve as tiny footholds for the fledgling Iraqi border patrol in an area where smugglers are common. U.S. officials have said anti-coalition foreign fighters, supplies and money have been flowing across Iraq's open borders.

For the soldiers, the project was a break from their daily expo-

sure to makeshift bombs and city fighting.

"We went from an urban environment to a rural environment where our primary mission was not combat objectives," said Sgt. Matthew Gowin, from Mechanicsville, Va., who became a platoon sergeant for the project. "It turned out better than I thought it would."

"Engineers love to leave something behind," said Lt. Col. Edward Morgan, the battalion commander. "In a sense this will be our little mark."

Fortified borders will help Iraq maintain control of its own country and help reduce risks from foreign fighters to servicemembers there.

The forts consist of a perimeter with a tower and conex living area. Personnel will have running water, electricity, heat and air conditioning — "All the basic life support," Gray said.

The project added fortifications



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from Company A of the 276th Engineers Battalion work on a tower at one of 15 forts they built on the Iraq-Syria border. The forts will serve as tiny footholds for the fledgling Iraqi border patrol.

to the large stretches between a few existing border posts. They're temporary, built to last about a year, by which time Iraq should have new forts built.

It took an orchestrated effort to move the conexes and heavy construction equipment two hours into the desert, while maintaining security.

"You can't hide that on the highways from the bad guys," Morgan said.

"That was the hardest part, loading and unloading," said Sgt. Timothy D. Atkins, attached to Company A, and a land surveyor in his civilian life in Mechanicsville. "It's a major endeavor to push that much stuff and do it as fast as we were, and leapfrog from site to site."

For some soldiers, the project was the third trip to the border. The support platoon fortified the berm in the spring, returned in August to repair the existing forts and again in October for the project.

They had to beg and borrow enough equipment for the job.

"That coordination took months. The actual mission took like 16 days," said Sgt. James Timberlake, support platoon sergeant from Powhatan, Va.

"Instead of just pushing a dirt pile for 200 miles, [you] start from nothing and have a complete project," he said.

"It was a lot different than what you see on the news," Gowin said. "We had limited contact with the people in the past."

The project had its share of difficulties, among them drastic variations in temperature, desert creepy crawlies and no facilities. It was pure field living, down to the sandstorm that ruined a meal.

"Nothing but scorpions and rats" out there, Atkins said.

But they enjoyed it. Working on the project was like a camping

trip and gave them a chance to build, the soldiers said.

"I never even knew there were that many stars," Atkins said. "It was definitely a good experience being out there."

The job also gives them a sense "that this will make a difference," Atkins said. "If it works, they could stop insurgents entering the country."

Pvt. Chris Perry, from Midlothian, Va., joined the company right before the project began, his first for the Army. At the

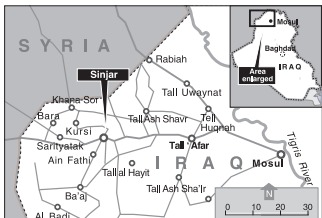
time, he was reading a book written before the war that stressed the importance of fortifying the border with Syria.

"I think it's pretty vital that we shut down that border," Perry said. "I'm glad to be a part of it."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@spjstars.osd.mil

"Engineers love to leave something behind. ... In a sense this will be our little mark."

Lt. Col. Edward Morgan



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman cuts the ribbon to open a new military working dog kennel at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq.

New dog kennel dedicated at Anaconda

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — As the kennel was being built to house the military working dogs at LSA Anaconda, Capt. William Allen Jr. was struck by a bit of inspiration.

The kennel, he believed, should be named for a military policeman, Staff Sgt. Arthur S. Mastrapa, killed at the base during a rocket attack in June.

"We responded to the attack. He died at the scene," said Allen, commander of a reserve unit from Ashley, Pa., but made up of soldiers from several states.

Mastrapa, 35, was not part of Allen's unit, but the kinship between military cops made the link an easy one. Plus, Allen said, there was something he saw in the news coverage of Mastrapa's funeral in the States.

Building named for MP killed during attack

"His daughter was clutching a puppy near the casket," Allen said. "It just kind of ... I don't know."

The kennel opened Thursday afternoon as the sun set on Veterans Day. In a short ceremony, prayers were offered, Mastrapa's biography was read, and Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, commander of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, cut the ribbon.

Allen's unit was the first to have military working dogs at this base. The dogs are capable of detecting bombs and drugs or can be used for simple patrolling.

"It's a prestige job to have," said Allen, because the military spends a lot of money training the dogs before placing them in the hands of a soldier.

Hilman called the dogs a "combat multi-

plier" in the effort against insurgents. Because of security concerns, the exact size of the kennel could not be released, according to military officials.

Mastrapa had been an MP while serving on active duty in the 1980s. He joined the reserves on June 16, 2000, and worked as a mailman in civilian life in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

He was assigned to the 351st Military Police Company from Orlando, Fla., and worked as a driver and gunner during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After his death, he received a Bronze Star Medal.

He and his wife, Jennifer, were parents to Marissa and Reece.

A plaque will be placed on the kennel to honor Mastrapa's memory.

Allen said he spoke with Jennifer Mastrapa about the kennel dedication. She told him it was a good thing to do.

"She said she felt like the Army hadn't forgotten her," he said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.osd.mil

"[Staff Sgt. Mastrapa's wife] said she felt like the Army hadn't forgotten her."

Capt. William Allen Jr.

Photos from the Front

Presented by Stars and Stripes Advertising & AIG Europe



ABOVE Spec. Jesse D. Greene, 20, a military policeman with the 293rd Military Police Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga., guards the Diyala Province Police Headquarters building in Baquba, Iraq, from a rooftop observation post.

ROBERTLY SHOW/U.S. ARMY

LEFT Capt. Joseph A. Kling, commander of the 748th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, prepares a robot during a bomb disposal encounter on Main Supply Route Tampa in Iraq.

ISRAELI TOWER JR./U.S. ARMY



SECURITY & PROTECTION

Important to our Country... Important to you and your Family

Our Protection Packages • Automobile Insurance • Household Goods • Personal Liability • Pet Insurance

Single Service Member's Personal Property Coverage • Vehicle & Driver Legal Protection

Please call AIU in Germany at 069-97113-0

or visit us on the web: www.aigueurope.com/military-auto



American International Group • American International Underwriters

AIU "Proudly Serving those who Serve"



IN THE WORLD

Israel open to coordinate Gaza withdrawal

BY LAURIE COPANS

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel on Monday offered its first indication it was reassessing relations with the Palestinians after Yasser Arafat's death, suggesting it might coordinate a planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip if the Palestinian Authority cracks down on militant groups.

Palestinian leaders reacted cautiously to remarks by Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and argued that Israel should "unconditionally" reopen peace talks under the U.S.-backed "road map" plan.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had previously refused to negotiate the "unilateral disengagement plan" with Arafat, insisting that he was responsible for four years of fighting. Arafat's death in a French hospital last week has opened up what many leaders believe is a crucial opportunity to revive the Middle East peace pro-

cess by clearing the way for a more moderate leadership.

If leaders emerge who are willing to stem the violence, Israel is prepared to coordinate the plan to move troops and 8,800 Jewish settlers out of the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, Israeli officials said Monday. Such coordination is considered critical to avoid a violent transition.

"Israel has every interest that Gaza will be ruled in a responsible manner when redeployment takes place," Shalom told a conference of North American Jews in Cleveland. "If the new leadership on the Palestinian side acts to combat terror, then we will be able to consider coordinating aspects of the 'day after' with them."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regav said Shalom's comments constituted a "new policy."

Israel's security establishment is currently examining ways to work with Palestinian security forces to hand them control of the

Gaza Strip when Israel withdraws, senior Israeli officials said Monday on condition of anonymity. The recommendations will be discussed with Sharon in an upcoming meeting of senior officials on the matter, the officials said.

Israeli and Palestinian officials alike have expressed fears that an evacuation from Gaza that is not coordinated would bring chaos to the Gaza Strip, where militant groups have been vying for control in recent months.

In a sign of the uncertainty, shots were fired in Gaza on Sunday as Mahmoud Abbas, a leading candidate in Palestinian elections on Jan. 9, attended a gathering of people mourning Arafat. Two security guards were killed, and fears were raised that the violence could spiral.

A cease-fire by Palestinian militants is a central Israeli condition for the coordination of the Gaza pullout plan, a senior Israeli official said on condition of anonymity. Israel also expects the Pales-

tinians to disarm the groups, stop anti-Israeli incitement and implement security and financial reforms, the official said.

In response, Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said he suspected the Israelis would put up too many conditions for coordinating the pullout.

"Israel should talk to us unconditionally," Erekat said. "This line of conditioning things — has been the way government handles things."

The Palestinian Authority is required in the road map to combat militant groups.

The plan, backed by the United States, United Nations, the European Union and Russia, was formally accepted by the sides in 2003 but never got off the ground due to mutual accusations of violations.

Under the plan, Israel is slated to dismantle illegal settlement outposts and freeze settlement activity but has been reluctant to do so. The plan calls for an end to vio-



Ariel Sharon

lence and the creation of a Palestinian state.

In another indication that Israel was pushing ahead with its implementation of its Gaza pullout plans, an Israeli parliamentary committee approved almost \$8 million to an authority overseeing the disengagement.

U.N. backs Iran on uranium

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The U.N. atomic watchdog agency gave its support Monday to Iran's agreement to suspend all uranium enrichment activities, the key element of a deal with European countries aimed at ensuring Iran does not develop nuclear weapons.

The United States, which has been pressing for tough U.N. action against Iran, has not yet given its position on any deal, saying Monday it was waiting for word from Britain, Germany and France, the nations negotiating with Tehran. The new agreement appeared to represent a victory by the Europeans after months of stonewalling by the Iranians.

If the tentative deal announced Sunday is sealed, it would prevent Iran from being referred to the U.N. Security Council, where it could face sanctions for its nuclear program. In return for the suspension, Europe has been suggesting it would help Iran in developing peaceful nuclear energy.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a confidential report made available Monday that The Associated Press that Iran's promise to suspend enrichment activities by Nov. 22 would satisfy some of the agency's demands. The document also left open the question of whether Iran tried to develop the technology to make atomic bombs, saying suspicions remain about the nature of nearly two decades of clandestine nuclear programs.

2004

Holiday Shopping Guide

Ring in the Holidays with Great Gift Ideas

Coming out, Nov. 24 with your Stars and Stripes Issue

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

SEND HOLIDAY WISHES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Greetings and photos will publish in the **STARS AND STRIPES** Middle East edition on December 16th

Send a greeting by visiting www.strips.com and clicking on the Holiday Messages button.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

2" x 2" greetings with photo: \$49 (actual size)

Text only greetings: FREE OF CHARGE!





Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO LAS VEGAS!

To enter just visit Stripes Club by going to www.stripes.com and clicking on the Stripes Club link at the top of the page.

Stripes Club brings you these other great benefits:

- Free Photo-sharing – Store up to 500Mb of your photos online to share with friends and family around the world.
- Great Savings on purchases from our Discount Store – Save up to 80% on great brand name merchandise every day.
- The easiest way to download music – Our partnership with Musicmatch gives you the easiest way to access over 700,000 songs online starting at only \$8 per month with Musicmatch® on Demand.
- Come back often to check as we add more great benefits to Stripes Club!

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

The competition is open only to DOD ID Card holders with APO or FPO addresses. Employees and/or family members of Stars and Stripes or the contest sponsors are not eligible to participate. You must be 18 years or older to participate and win. Go to www.StripesClub.com for other terms and conditions.

Prime minister quits

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Macedonian Prime Minister Hari Kostov resigned Monday over disagreements with an ethnic Albanian party in the governing coalition, triggering a government crisis in the ethnically tense Balkan state.

Kostov, who became the prime minister in May, told reporters that he submitted his resignation to the parliament speaker.

"One of the coalition partners ... is promoting partisan interests, nepotism and corruption," Kostov said, referring to the Albanian Union for Integration party, which led a rebellion against the government in 2001.

Kostov's resignation needs approval in Parliament. If accepted, President Branko Cvenkovski could name a new prime minister without calling early elections. There was no immediate announcement on when the parliament session would be held.

Greek data inaccurate

ATHENS, Greece — Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis admitted Monday that Greece joined the euro after submitting inaccurate data, but EU officials said there was no danger of the nation being expelled from Europe's common currency.

"It has been proven that Greece's budget deficit never fell below 3 percent since 1999," Alogoskoufis said before heading to Brussels to attend a meeting with the 11 other members of the euro zone later Monday.

"We will have a very crucial meeting where we will clarify the budget deficit data," said Alogoskoufis.

Under EU rules, a country's deficit must not exceed 3 percent of gross domestic product to join the euro.

Croatia, Serbia talks

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Top officials from Croatia and Serbia-Montenegro pledged Monday to "turn a new page" in relations between two former foes that fought a bloody war in 1990s.

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic also promised to resolve all disputed issues left from the conflict and establish a "good neighborly partnership."

Sanader is on a one-day visit to Belgrade — the first by a Croatian prime minister since Croatia and Serbia fought a war after the breakup of former Yugoslavia in early 1990s.

Italy's teachers strike

ROME — Public schools across Italy were closed on Monday as teachers and school personnel went on strike amid fears of job cuts and slashed budgets.

Teachers from around the country traveled to Rome to march in two demonstrations. Balloons and red smoke from flares floated overhead, and students joined in, dancing behind a float that played rock music.

School staff are worried about a 2 percent cut in school personnel reportedly planned for next year's budget — a move which would mean the loss of 14,000 jobs.

From The Associated Press

Thousands more are leaving Ivory Coast

BY PARFAIT KOASSI

The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — The number of foreigners evacuated after a violent uprising in Ivory Coast has topped 5,000, the French military said Monday, while more than 10,000 African citizens without hope of flights out have fled into neighboring

countries.

A French-led exodus from Ivory Coast started Thursday, the first day of calm after five days of burning, looting attacks unleashed by supporters of hard-line President Laurent Gbagbo against French troops and civilians and other foreigners.

Since Thursday, French forces have evacuated 4,248 foreigners

from a total of 63 countries, French military spokesman Col. Henry Aussavy said.

Flights organized by businesses for their employees have taken out about 870 people, Aussavy said, while Spain, Canada, the Netherlands and others have evacuated about 550 others.

The number makes it the largest evacuation in Africa in at

least a decade. In 1997, a French led evacuation brought 5,000 foreigners from the Republic of Congo amid election violence and civil war there.

Aussavy said several hundred others have registered with the French military for evacuation. A French official last week said up to 8,000 French nationalists alone wanted to leave Ivory Coast.



GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

SPECIAL OFFER! Subscribe to STARS AND STRIPES before December 31, 2004 and receive an EXTRA! EXTRA! large STARS AND STRIPES gift mug!

Don't miss daily developments on issues that affect you the most — Deployments, Local Happenings, Military Transformation, DoDDs Schools and so much more.

Special introductory rates offer substantial savings on the cover price!

Three months: \$45.40 (Save 12.5%) Six months: \$84.50 (Save 18.75%) Twelve months: \$156 (Save 25%)

Contact your Stars and Stripes customer service representative today:
tel: 06155 601 438 or DSN 349-8438. Email: customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil
Mention promo code: FREEMUG to receive your Stars and Stripes gift mug.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

* Gift mug offer valid only while supplies last. Special introductory rates available to new Home Delivery subscribers only. Home delivery not available in some areas; contact your Stars and Stripes customer service representative for more details.

IN THE STATES

Well, three others resign from Cabinet

DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell and three other Cabinet members submitted their resignations on Monday, as the shake-up of President Bush's second-term team escalated. "I believe that now that the election is over, the time has come for me to step down," Powell wrote.

Bush was likely to name national security adviser Condoleezza Rice to replace Powell, senior administration officials said.

The White House released the letter Powell sent to the president on Friday as well as those written by Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, Education Secretary Rod Paige and Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, confirming their departures.

The announcements earlier of the departures of Attorney General John Ashcroft and Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, along with those disclosed Monday, brought to six — out of 15 — the number of Cabinet members involved in the post-election exodus.

"I am pleased to have been part of a team that launched the global war against terror, journeyed the Afghan and Iraqi people, brought the attention of the world to

Abraham, Veneman, Paige also leave positions;
Rice believed next in line for secretary of state



Powell

Abraham

Veneman

Paige

the problem of proliferation, reaffirmed our alliances, adjusted to the post-Cold War world and undertook major initiatives to deal with the problem of poverty and disease in the developing world," Powell told Bush.

The president already has chosen White House counsel Alberto Gonzales to succeed Ashcroft, and speculation on Powell's successor has centered on Rice and U.S. Ambassador John Danforth, a former U.S. senator from Missouri.

Powell, who long had been rumored planning only a single term with Bush,

told the president he intends to "return to private life."

Earlier Monday, he had told aides he intended to leave once Bush settled on a successor, administration officials said.

"Secretary Powell's departure is a loss to the moderate internationalist voices in the Bush administration," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador in the Clinton administration. "Hopefully, his replacement will be a pragmatist rather than an ideologue."

Powell has had a controversial tenure in the secretary of state's job, reportedly

differing on some key issues at various junctures with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Powell, however, has generally had good relations with his counterparts around the world, although his image was strained by the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Powell, a former chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff under the first President Bush, led the current administration offensive at the United Nations for a military attack to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, arguing a weapons-of-mass-destruction threat that the administration could never buttress.

"It has been a joy to work with Colin Powell," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said. He praised Powell as "a unique figure" who had made the transition "from being a great soldier to being a great statesman and diplomat."

For many months, Powell had been viewed as a one-term secretary of state but he has always been vague about his intentions. He had said repeatedly in recent weeks that he serves at "the pleasure of the president."

Powell's role in shaping foreign policy was one of promoting moderation and traditional diplomatic alliances with friendly nations. His influence was measured, though, since most of Bush's other senior advisers generally took a harder line and they often prevailed.

Fingerprinting starts at land border crossings

BY LYNN BREZOSKY
The Associated Press

LAREDO, Texas — Bridges to Mexico in this traffic-choked city began testing a new immigration

security program Monday that requires some U.S. visitors to be fingerprinted and photographed as they cross the border.

The screening by the Homeland Security Department was being tested Monday at crossing from Mexico in Laredo and Douglas, Ariz., and from Canada at Port Huron, Mich.

The technology — which also calls for running checks on the visitors — has been in place at U.S. airports and seaports since Jan. 5, but officials want to pinpoint any glitches before the program extends to the nation's 50 busiest land crossings by year's end.

"We always test first," said Anna

Hinken, program outreach manager. Digital fingerprints and photos are matched with databases to determine if visitors might be wanted for immigration problems and crimes or are on lists barring them from entering the country because of suspected terrorist ties.

Extra security requirements were passed by Congress in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and have been in place for nearly all non-U.S. citizens since January.

The information gathered at the borders will be stored indefinitely in a national database, but Homeland Security officials promised its use would be restricted to ensure privacy.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (Nov. 16)	\$1,322.31
British pound (Nov. 15)	\$1.96
Japanese yen (Nov. 16)	103.00
South Korean won (Nov. 16)	1070.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37664
British pound	\$1.858
Canada (Dollar)	1.5021
Denmark (Krone)	5.41
Egypt (Pound)	6.2395
Euro	\$1,322.31
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.00
Hungary (Forint)	187.97
Indonesia (Rupiah)	154.48
Israel (Shekel)	4.4326
Japan (Yen)	103.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.24665
Norway (Krone)	1.47
Philippines (Peso)	56.33
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.651
South Korea (Won)	1,070.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.11
Thailand (Baht)	36.67
Turkey (Lira)	1,447,000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for U.S. troops. South Korea, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the non-military currency exchange rates, i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany, bank with your local currency exchange facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for U.S. dollars in buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates for one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$436.20
Silver	\$17.41

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
3-month bill	4.50
3-month bank	2.67
3-month Treasury	4.50

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Tips for being good leader

The Associated Press

If you're a leader, how do your employees think you could be a better communicator?

Many want to feel that the boss stands up for them when necessary, according to a poll of 571 workers. The issue was cited by 28 percent.

The best employees want someone who will be their advocate," said Diane Dorney, executive director of Menlo Park, Calif.-based OfficeTeam, a staffing service for administrators.

Another 24 percent said they believe successful communicators limit office politics, and

more than fifth (20 percent) said the boss should talk less and listen more.

Some suggestions for better communication:

- Squelch the rumor mill. If your staff doesn't hear the news from you, they're nearly sure to get it elsewhere, Dorney said.
- Listen during meetings. How do your colleagues speak to and about your staff? If someone is questioned or criticized unfairly, come to the defense.

- Inquire. Impromptu discussions with employees can alert you to political issues in the office, and potentially defuse them before they become a problem.

Supreme Court overturns death sentence in Texas

BY GINA HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday overturned the death sentence of a convicted Texas killer because jurors in his trial did not consider his learning disability and other evidence.

The unsigned 7-2 decision is another approach of Texas, which executes more people than any other state.

Texas courts had turned down LaRoyce Lathair Smith's appeal of his sentence for the January 1991 killing of a Taco Bell manager during a robbery attempt in Dallas. The victim, 19-year-old Jennifer Soto, was pistol-whipped, shot and stabbed with a butter knife.

In the ruling, justices cited their decision five months ago in the case of another Texas death row inmate, Robert T. Tennard, which opened the door to new challenges from several dozen condemned men in Texas who claim they have low IQs and were not given enough chance to present mitigating evidence to a jury.

There is no question that a jury might well have considered IQ scores and history of participation in special-education classes as a reason to impose a sentence more lenient than death," the court wrote in Monday's decision.

Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the most conservative justices, disagreed.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist had joined Scalia and Thomas in opposing the outcome of the earlier Texas case. Rehnquist, who has been away from the court since last

month while receiving chemotherapy and radiation for thyroid cancer, supported the latest decision though no explanation was provided.

The Supreme Court has been critical of prosecutors' handling of some capital cases in Texas, which last year was responsible for 24 of the 65 U.S. executions.

Earlier this year, justices lifted inmate Delma Banks' death sentence and delivered a strong rebuke of Texas officials and lower courts for failing to ensure he received a fair trial. The court said prosecutors hid key information that might have helped Banks' case.

Last year, the court sided with a black Texas death row inmate, Thomas Miller-El, who claimed prosecutors in Dallas County stacked his jury with whites.

The Miller-El case will be reviewed by justices for the second time next month because an appeals court again found that he should face the death penalty.

In other decisions, the Supreme Court:

- Declined to consider whether retrained Kmart Corp. should have paid more than \$300 million to key suppliers immediately after filing for bankruptcy protection.

- Refused to consider whether a Colorado couple must return their adopted son to his Missouri birth mother.

Turned down an appeal from coachfighting supporters in Oklahoma seeking to reinstate the blood sport.

Dequisted a lawsuit that accuses two German companies of assisting in the massacre of thousands of people in Namibia a century ago.

Super pill?

Anti-obesity, anti-smoking pill might also fight drug abuse, scientists say

BY MALCOLM RITTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A pill that helps you lose weight and quit smoking? That was amazing enough to capture headlines last week.

But scientists say the experimental drug might be even more versatile, providing a new tool to help people stop abusing drugs and alcohol, too.

It's called rimobabant, or Acomplia, and last week researchers reported it could help people not only lose weight but keep it off for two years.

That tarnished the drug's reputation after two studies in March, which suggested it could fight both obesity and smoking, two of humanity's biggest killers.

The French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi-Aventis plans to seek federal approval for rimobabant next year.

But the drug's benefits may go beyond just smokers and obese people, researchers say.

Animal studies suggest rimobabant can block the effects of marijuana and fight relapse in alcohol and cocaine abuse, said Dr. Charles O'Brien, an addiction expert at the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Once it is approved for treating

obesity or smoking, "we'll be free to study it in these other areas and I'll try to get my hands on it as quickly as possible," O'Brien said.

He's not alone in his enthusiasm.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism is interested in seeing whether rimobabant can help treat heavy drinkers, said Dr. George Kunes of the institute. No human test results for rimobabant in alcohol abuse have yet been published, he said.

But researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported in 2001 that a single dose of the drug could block the effects of smoked marijuana in people, not just animals. That suggests the drug could be useful in treating marijuana dependence, said Marilyn Huestis, principal investigator of the study. The institute is now pursuing follow-up research, said Huestis, acting chief for chemistry and drug metabolism research at NIDA.

Rimobabant's versatility traces back to its effects on the brain's reward system, circuitry that tells you to keep on doing something. Basically, it appears to help break the connection between an activity like smoking and the rewarding feeling it causes in the brain.



Traffic passes by the Clinton Presidential Center and Library on Nov. 8 on the south bank of the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock, Ark.

Clinton library shows flaws, too

BY DAVID HAMMER

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — As Bill Clinton's library is unveiled at a gala opening this week, one thing is certain: His messy legacy will be on full display.

One alcove will be dedicated to impeachment, and organizers have promised not to sidestep even Monica Lewinsky or Paula Jones. The 58-year-old political superstar is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of visitors a year to his library.

"Bill Clinton is a rock star," said Skip Rutherford, head of Clinton's nonprofit foundation that built the \$165 million library. "He is Elvis."

The William J. Clinton Presidential Center, a metaphorical "bridge to the 21st century" cantilevered out over the bank of the Arkansas River, opens Thursday as the highlight of a week of programs, exhibits and symposiums.

The week will include an Aretha Franklin con-

cert, a science discussion by astronaut and former Democratic Sen. John Glenn, dedication of new sculptures on the riverfront and at the airport, and a reception to which Whoopi Goldberg, Cicely Tyson and Quincy Jones have been invited.

At Thursday morning's grand opening, speakers will include Clinton, his wife Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Bush, and former presidents George H. W. Bush and Jimmy Carter. Some 30,000 guests have been invited to gather on the library lawn and U2's Bono and The Edge will perform.

Visitors to the 150,000-square-foot glass and steel center designed by architect James Polshek will get to see how Clinton, his closest advisers and exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum tell Clinton's story.

Clinton has promised to give scholars early access to previously private policy advice and other documents he isn't required to release until 2006. He already has written about the Lewinsky and Jones sex scandals, impeachment and his political missteps in his memoir, "My Life."

LASTING PEACE BEGINS IN THE HEART.

For more than 50 years,

the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has shared the promise of peace through Jesus Christ with people across the globe. Through Crusades, radio and TV broadcasts, the Internet, literature, and more, we are committed to reaching everyone we can with the life-changing power of God's love. We have seen thousands of broken hearts find forgiveness and healing, yet billions more live in fear and despair across the globe.

WILL YOU HELP?

To join us in this lifesaving mission, please designate

CFC No. 2016 on your pledge card.

For more information, visit www.billygraham.org.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom & Dad
Grandma & Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird



Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day

give the **Gift of**
memories FOREVER

PERFECT FOR CHRISTMAS!

Go to www.StripesClub.com and click the TreasureKnit ad to order your personalized photo blanket today!

BILLY GRAHAM
EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Please check CFC No. 2016



Quick Trips

All roads lead to shopping

Rome-area malls offer plenty for holiday giving

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

This is the season to be shopping. There are two good places north of Naples that have plenty of adult presents, and no, neither is the North Pole.

The two are outlet malls, Castel Romano and Fashion District, and both are just south of Rome. With the holidays quickly approaching, a visit to either just might help finish off that gift list.

Castel Romano, about five miles south of the city, has a higher proportion of high-fashion — and more expensive — shops.

Its 90 small stores range from Levi's Dockers, Nike and Timberland, to stylish Italian goods such as Bruno Magli, Dolce & Gabbana of "Sex and the City" fame, and Versace.

The mall's offerings, according to the information pamphlet, are last year's designs or overstocks from this year. Advertising at the mall entrance states that shoppers will save 30 percent to 70 percent of the list prices, but most of what we saw was at about the 30 percent range.

My shopping-expert wife did warn that she has seen some of the same items at the Naples Navy Exchange at lower prices.

In a handful of stores we visited, clothing was listed in both American and European sizes or had charts nearby converting one to the other, making it convenient to choose the right size.

Most of the stores at Castel Romano revolve around clothing, although there are plenty of shoes, some watches, sunglasses, kitchen items and even a Bose sound system store.

There are also a few restaurants and coffee bars. A large playground at one of the mall's corners is thankfully next to a coffee bar, so parents with kids can take a break while their kids burn off energy.

The entrances to the outdoor mall are done in faux-castle motif, and the mall's "ancient Roman streets" are designed in a figure-8 shaped layout, making the walk through them really easy.

Castel Romano is managed by McArthurGlen, which has 13 outlet centers throughout Europe, from England to Italy.

The second outlet mall, Fashion District, is southeast of the city along the Naples-Rome autostrada in Valmontone. It's



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

The Castel Romano outlet mall is designed to look like an old Roman neighborhood — except, of course, for the modern brand-name stores.

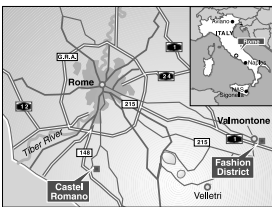


The Fashion District outlet mall in Valmontone, Italy, has a Disneyland-like look. That might not be a coincidence; the mall plans to add a theme park and golf course. It currently has 87 stores and will add room for more with another wing that's under construction.

about a 25-minute drive from Castel Romano, but it's on the way back to Naples, so for that reason alone it's worth a stop.

Fashion District is a work in progress. The mall has a lot to offer, but plans are in the works to offer even more. An additional wing of stores is under construction, and by 2006 the mall plans to have its theme park and golf course open.

Until then, however, shoppers



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

only have to deal with Fashion District's 87 stores.

Fashion District has fewer high-end shops, and is consequently more affordable. Many of the shops aren't

household names, or at least I don't remember them from the malls back in the States. But they offer a wide range of products, from clothing to home furnishings to stuffed animals.

There are some familiar names like Villoroy & Boch, Lee Wrangler and Sonny Bono, although the latter brings thoughts of Cher and Congress, not shopping.

Fashion District seems more

casual and user-friendly than Castel Romano. Its brightly colored décor seems almost Disneyland-like in character, and its layout of alleyways running off a large main courtyard makes quick shopping forays not as overwhelming.

Plus, restaurants or snack shops at the ends of these short alleys make things go even smoother. Finally, a large coffee and pastry shop in the middle serves as a nice central place to rest between alley shopping runs.

And after a day of running back and forth, in and out of shops at the two malls, you'll surely welcome the break.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estrpes.osd.mil.

On the QT



Directions

From Naples or Gaeta, take the A1 autostrada north toward Rome. The Fashion District outlet mall is in Valmontone, a few miles south of the Roma Sud exit, on the east side of the highway. Signs lead to the mall from the tollbooth.

To get to Castel Romano, take the Roma Sud exit west on the GRA expressway, which runs around Rome, and take exit 26, Highway SS 148, Via Pontina, about three miles to the Castel Romano exit. The mall is on the right.



Times

Castel Romano is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Fashion Mall is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.



Costs

There are no entry or parking fees at the malls, but autostrada tolls from Naples to Rome run 9.80 euro each way.



Food

Both malls have restaurants. Castel Romano has three restaurants, and snacks are available at the coffee bars. Fashion Mall has five eateries, ranging from a central pastry shop and coffee bar to restaurants at the end of each shopping alley.



Information

Both malls have Web sites with English versions. Fashion District is www.fashiondistrict.it. Castel Romano's site, the superior of the two, is www.mcarthurglen.it.

— JASON CHUDY

OPINION

Only comprehensive Mideast plan will help

BY BRENT SCOWCROFT

With a hard-fought election behind us, the United States is now free to refocus its energies on the myriad problems that have a direct impact on its security and destiny. Nowhere do those problems press more insistently on our vital interests than in the Middle East.

The region has been changed forever by the decision to go into Iraq. The debate about the timing and rationale for the war is behind us, but the continued presence of U.S. forces, and changes in the regional balance of power, mean we no longer have the luxury of treating Middle East policy as a series of unrelated events running on separate calendars. We face the need for simultaneous actions to avoid failed states while reducing the incentives to violence and instability that threaten America and friendly states throughout the region.

Iraq, Israel, Iran and terrorism are parts of a whole and can be satisfactorily engaged only as such. To cut through this Gordian knot will require not only a new approach but the deep, sustained commitment of the United States and a significant investment of the president's attention.

But American resolve will not suffice without the willing engagement of other states, especially those of Europe and the region itself. Our appeal to the Europeans, with whom our differences are reaching out to them on the Palestinian peace process and Iran, and soliciting their help on Iraq. Similarly, we need to ensure that the Arab states are substantive participants in finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and we must engage them more fully in securing its future.

The goal we seek in Iraq is to create a secure environment in which reconstruction of the economy can vigorously get under way and national reconciliation can proceed. The reality, unpleasant though it may be, is that providing such an environment in a reasonable time frame will require a larger coalition force than is currently deployed there.

This force increment must come either from our own already stretched military or from our friends and allies.

Comfortably re-elected, President Bush is in an excellent position to renew his appeal for a greater international presence in Iraq. The leaders of Europe and the Arab world surely recognize — even if their publics may not — that a failed Iraq would affect their countries every bit as seriously as it would the United States. As evidenced by the NATO deployment in Afghanistan, our allies are also stretched thin. But European willingness to provide even a modest nucleus of troops could provide inducement and cover for other states, especially Muslim ones, to make militarily meaningful contributions. This would also serve to reduce the U.S. profile in Iraq but, if it must be emphasized, would not — and should not — provide any near-term basis for reducing our own forces.

This essential step in Iraq needs to be accompanied by a U.S. undertaking to reavitalize the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat has passed from the scene. His death represents a sea change in the Palestinian situation and, as Bush has remarked, "an opening for peace." Both the United States and Israel have refused to deal with Arafat. The United States must seize this unique opportunity to make a decisive move.

The president should add substance to his commitment to an independent Palestinian state. It must include steps to provide security to Israel and to give the Palestinians the ability and means to construct a viable political entity free from the crushing presence of Israeli troops. The United States should insist that Israel stop construction of its wall on the West Bank and mirror its withdrawal from Gaza with the evacuation of the West Bank. In return, the wall and Israeli troops would be replaced by an international force, principally European or perhaps NATO troops.

The Palestinians should be pressed to take urgent measures to replace Arafat with political leadership that is both willing and able to undertake responsible negotiations and deliver on its commitments.

Arab friends, notably Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Morocco, should provide vital guidance, encouragement and support.

The "road map" plan of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations should be revived and fortified by these actions and vigorously pushed by its sponsors to final settlement. The outlines of such a settlement have, by the otherwise unfortunate stagnation of the process, become much less contested. A unified Jerusalem would serve as capital to both peoples. While the "right of return" could be left as a principle, the reality is that most Palestinian refugees will remain outside Israel, just as most Jewish settlers will return to Israel.

A donor pool may need to be organized to provide compensation for both groups. Border rectifications would be necessary to provide the settlement solution and would complete the package.

A donor pool may need to be organized to provide compensation for both groups. Border rectifications would be necessary to provide the settlement solution and would complete the package.



Substantial, visible progress on the Palestinian issue would significantly improve the atmosphere in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East, including Iran, the third side of this triangle of tension and violence. The United States has three objectives with respect to Iran: a cessation of any moves toward nuclear proliferation; cooperation that contributes actively to stability in the Persian Gulf and in Iraq; and Iranian restraint on Hezbollah and other radical groups. To obtain these goals — and encourage European cooperation — the United States must take several initiatives.

To begin, it should modify its attitude toward the British-French-German negotiations with Iran over its pursuit of uranium enrichment capabilities. We should actively embrace the European position, urge the Russians to join us and jointly approach Iran. Such an approach would support Iranian efforts to develop nuclear power, including the offer of an ensured supply of nuclear reactor fuel (low enriched uranium) at concessionary prices — even gratis in exchange for a comprehensive, verifiable freeze of Iran's uranium enrichment program.

[Monday, Iran announced it was suspending uranium enrichment and related activities briefly, voluntarily and in hopes of building confidence in the world that its nuclear ambitions are peaceful.]

Iran not only has strong interests in the fu-

ture of Iraq but a powerful influence through its religious connections to the Shiite majority there. We should engage Iran about the future of Iraq, comparing our separate perspectives and emphasizing our joint intentions.

In that regard, the multilateral discussions over Iraq scheduled later this month at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, should become the start of a dialogue, with U.N. participation. These discussions could be broadened to include a Persian Gulf security group of nations, blessed and supported by the United States. This could serve to assuage Iran's security concerns and temper its urge to acquire a nuclear capability.

Finally, the United States should indicate a willingness to modify its sanctions regime and thereby its relationship to Iran, were Iran willing to restrain Hezbollah and exercise its influence over other extremist groups. This would greatly minimize the risk that violence and other radical disruptions would hinder the Palestinian peace process.

The stakes are high. Progress in the region, in addition to being extremely critical for its own sake, holds the promise of making a substantial and lasting contribution to the war on terrorism.

Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser under presidents Gerald Ford and George W. Bush, is founder and president of the Forum for International Policy. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Mourners take to the streets of the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday following the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in France.

Mallard Fillmore

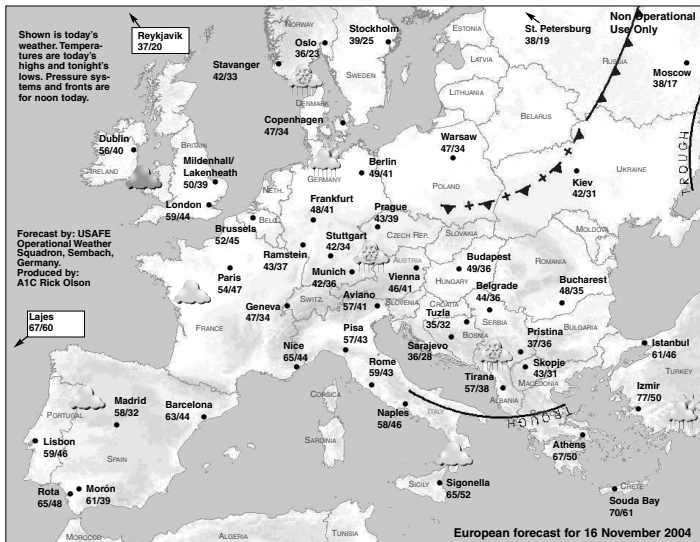
Editor's Note: Apparently, this comic strip has been the victim of an elaborate deception, in which the time-space continuum was tampered with...

to make it appear that JOHN KERRY won the election... This had to have been an inside job done by someone...

...in my own cartoon syndicate. Someone who wanted Kerry to win so badly, that it blundered us already-snaky grip on reality... BUT WHO? WHO?!!

THEY'LL NEVER TIE THIS TO ME... IN FACT, I'VE GOT A MEMO HERE THAT SAYS BUSH DID IT! OR RICHARD MELLON SCAPED... OR SPONGBOB SQUAREPANTS... HE'S EVIL, YOU KNOW...

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



KEY: Sunny Partly cloudy Mostly cloudy Cloudy Showers Storms Rain Rain/snow Snow Cold front Warm front Occluded Low High

AFRICA

Capetown	84	HO	84	LO	75
Dakar	80	64	Mogadishu	88	70
Freeport	88	77	Nairobi	79	59
Nairobi	88	72	Rabat	68	48
Nairobi	88	72	Tripoli	71	51

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	54	43	Manila	89	76
Bahamas	80	64	Mexico City	89	64
Beijing	55	30	Montreal	46	34
Buenos Aires	55	30	Riyadh	89	64
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51
Buenos Aires	55	30	Sao Paulo	77	51

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40
Alaska	55	40	Cleveland	53	40

Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35
Hamburg	61	35	Poland	61	35

Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43
Nashville	60	43	City	60	43

San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57
San Diego	64	57	Rain	64	57

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid-50s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid-30s, Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

France: Partly to Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers to the north. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to low 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid-30s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain/snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s to low 40s, Wednesday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s, Wednesday lows in the lower 30s to mid 40s.

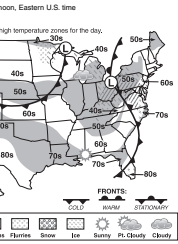
Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s to lower 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts, visit the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil> <http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:10	6:10
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:58am	7:41am
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:01pm	5:00pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:33pm	4:40pm

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Homework Newspaper

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley Up the Apple Tree	Movie *** "Picnic" (1955, Drama) William Holden, Kim Novak. A dithering provincial explorer endures in a small town.	Dr. Phil	Jacqueline	Nightline	(16) Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jacqueline
9:30	Sawtooth-Same Cat	Stanley "X-Ray X-Ray"	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Headline News	Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)	Novak. A dithering provincial explorer endures in a small town.	(3:46) Guiding Light	ESPNews	Harbort With Chris Matthews	Best for Less	Striped	ESPNews
10:30	Between the Lions (E)	(10:50) Movie *** "A Gathering of Eagles" (1983) Rock Hudson. A disillusioned Air Force wife leaves her husband.	(17) General Hospital	Headline News	CNN Daybreak	NBA Football	E News	Pacific Report
11:00	Sawtooth-Same Cat	Stanley "X-Ray X-Ray"	Headline News	Judge Judy	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys. From Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Force wife leaves her husband.	Judge Judy	Good Morning America	Good Morning America	Girlsfriends	That '70s Show	Headline News
12:30	The Wiggles	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
14:00	Blue's Clues (E)	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
15:30	Full House "Viva Las Joys"	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
16:00	Pokemon "Adrenaline Rush"	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Steppin' Out"	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
17:00	AAahh! Real Monsters	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
19:00	The Proud Family	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
19:30	The Amanda Show	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
20:00	Evenwood "A Thanksgiving Play"	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
20:30	Sister, Sister	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
21:00	Sister, Sister	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
21:30	The Cosby Show	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
22:00	Home Improvement	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Clinging Wings"	Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News
23:30		Movie *** "On Golden Pond" (1981) Katherine Hepburn. Old residents reunite during a family's lakeside vacation.	Headline News	Headline News	Good Morning America	Sports	Charmed "Mute to My Ears"	Headline News

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2004

00:00	Hey Arnold! Jealous of Lila	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
1:30	The Proud Family	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
2:00	The Amanda Show	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
2:30	The Amanda Show	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
3:00	Evenwood "A Thanksgiving Play"	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
3:30	Sister, Sister	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
4:00	Sister, Sister	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
4:30	Sesame Street (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
6:00	Blue's Clues (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
6:30	Dragon Tales (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
7:00	Bob the Builder	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
7:30	The Wiggles	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
8:00	Dora the Explorer	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
8:30	Stanley "Caddy Pride"	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
9:00	Sawtooth-Same Cat	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
9:30	Arthur "Background Blues"	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
10:00	Between the Lions (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
10:30	Sawtooth-Same Cat	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
11:00	Sawtooth-Same Cat	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
11:30	Stanley	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
12:00	Dora the Explorer	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
12:30	Bob the Builder	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
13:00	Dragon Tales (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
13:30	Blue's Clues	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
14:00	Barney & Friends (E)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
14:30	Funtastic Home Videos	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
15:00	Full House "Ships Up"	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
15:30	Pokemon	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
16:30	AAahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
17:00	Rocket Power	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
17:30	SpongeBob SquarePants	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
18:00	Rugrats	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
18:30	Even Stevens	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
19:00	Kenan & Kel	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
19:30	Kimono Girls "Paris is Burning"	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
20:00	Degrassi: Next	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
21:00	Degrassi: Next	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
21:30	Degrassi: Next	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
22:00	The Cosby Show	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
22:30	Home Improvement	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Amazing Grace" (Part 1 of 2)	(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
23:30		(11:00) Movie *** "Cliffhanger" (1993) John Lithgow	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame

Read Stripes online at

www.strikes.com

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

A dog's intuition

RI EXETER — The devotion of a hunter's two dogs probably saved his life after he suffered a stroke early this week, fell and lay in the woods through the coldest night this autumn, conservation officers said.

Steven Goslee's two yellow Labrador retrievers huddled against him all night as the air temperature fell to 15 degrees. In the morning, one pooch ran off to catch the attention of another hunter, who summoned help from game wardens from the Department of Environmental Management.

Puppies burned

CO GOLDEN — A 20-year-old man pleaded guilty to aggravated animal cruelty for stealing five puppies and burning two of them to death.

Ryan Turtura was accused of breaking into a Colorado Humane Society shelter in February and stealing the dogs. Court records said he admitted setting three of them on fire. One of the burned puppies survived.

Turtura could receive up to 10½ years in prison and faces fines of up to \$800,000 when sentenced in January. He has been held on \$25,000 bail.

Fieri bridge crash

IL EAST ST. LOUIS — A commuter van carrying workers from two aerospace companies collided on with a tractor-trailer on a Mississippi River bridge, killing four people in the van and injuring four others, authorities said.

State police said the van was on the Martin Luther King Bridge before dawn when it struck the 18-wheeler, spilling diesel fuel that caught fire near the Illinois end of the bridge. The flames were quickly extinguished.

The wreck closed the busy, four-lane bridge between East St. Louis and St. Louis for about five hours. The bridge is one of three crossing the river at St. Louis.

Thief not camera-shy

CA CAMPBELL — Smile, security camera thief! You just gave police your portrait.

Police are seeking the public's help in identifying a bumbling crook caught in the act by a surveillance camera, which captured his crystal-clear mug shot as he reached up to swipe it.

"When these guys help us do our job, I'm very happy," police Sgt. Richard Shipman said. The photographer is a suspect in a string of surveillance-camera heists.

Guard shoots student

LA NEW ORLEANS — A security guard shot a teenager in the foot at a New Orleans high school, believing he was reaching for a weapon during a confrontation.

Tomika Thomas told police she smelled marijuana when she spotted the 16-year-old boy standing alone under a tree outside Booker T. Washington High School when other students were in class or the cafeteria.

Thomas said she approached the student and tried to detain him, but he became aggressive, pushed her, then reached under his shirt.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police found no drugs or weapons on the boy, who ran away after being shot and was caught by a second security guard.

The student was taken to a hospital. Police said the wound was not life-threatening.

Heartless thieves

MO ST. LOUIS — To Candace Ullrich, it's nothing but heartless — thieves again have put a jobs program for mentally challenged adults out of business by stealing the lawn and landscaping tools of their trade.

This theft was the third in a year for the Horticultural Jobs Program that Ullrich supervises. And not surprisingly, she says the losses — and callousness — are getting old.

News of the burglary, however, has generated an outpouring of generosity, with homeowners offering their extra weed trimmers and lawn mowers. An area lawyer sent, by courier, a \$500 check.

Ullrich hopes the program should be fully stocked soon.

Too close for comfort

NY NEW YORK — An apparently emotionally disturbed man stripped naked and jumped into an exhibit with two young caimans at the Bronx Zoo, police said.

The man, whose name was not

released, was intent on interacting with the alligator-like reptiles, reaching for them while sitting on a rock as stunned police officers — who rushed there from a zoo substation — looked on.

But before he could make contact with the reptiles, a zoo worker slid a plywood board in front of them, preventing the caimans — each about four feet long — from reaching the man.

Cooked-up scholarship

NC RUTHERFORDTON — Ten-year-old Brownwyn Fadem has cooked up \$25,000 for college.

The fifth-grader who likes to cook for her friends won a \$25,000 scholarship with a lasagna dish that impressed a celebrity chef. Brownwyn learned she had won the contest sponsored by All Laundry detergent while appearing on "The Tony Danza Show."

More than 200 young chefs nationwide entered the contest and 25 were named finalists. Judges and Internet voters selected the winner.

Fallen hero

MN ST. PAUL — A decorated Navy veteran who robbed a credit union and then hid in the Mississippi River in scuba gear was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Mark W. Samples, 41, of Hager City, Wis., was convicted in May of stealing more than \$70,000 in the holdup. Witnesses said he fled on a mountain bike, then made his way to the river's edge, donned scuba gear and drifted downstream to his car.

Samples claimed at trial that he was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as the result of a 1987 Iraqi attack on the USS Stark that killed 37 sailors, including Samples' best friend.

Cemetery life extended

NM SANTA FE — Santa Fe National Cemetery is getting an aboveground burial vault, which will extend the life of the military cemetery until 2018. The cemetery opened part of its columbarium, a three-wall structure that eventually will have about 3,000 niches for cremated remains. The 81-acre cemetery had been expected to be at capacity as early as 2008.

Astronaut's son arrested

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The 54-year-old son of astronaut Walter Schirra was arrested at San Francisco International Airport on child sex charges as he tried to board a plane for Thailand, allegedly to solicit sex with underage boys, federal agents said.

Walter M. Schirra III of San Francisco, a property manager, was arrested. A search of his luggage revealed photos of shirtless Asian boys, sexual-performance prescription drugs, condoms and large amounts of candy, said Special Agent Catherine Miller of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

None of the seized items is illegal, but a search of a computer at Schirra's home revealed images of child pornography, Miller said.

Schirra is being held without bail pending a hearing.



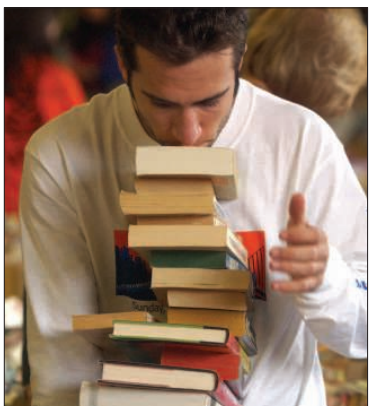
Time for a catnap

A Siberian tiger hangs its tongue out of its mouth during a yawn as it settles in for an afternoon nap at Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, Kan.



Ice princess

An early-morning skater graces the ice on the opening day of ice skating at the Crown Center Ice Terrace in Kansas City, Mo.



Book worm

Mark McCraw of Raleigh, N.C., tries to balance a tall stack of books he is intent on buying at the Wake County Public Libraries book sale.



Red River High School cheerleaders Jessica Pastir, left, and Nikki Elm perform toe-touch baskets during practice at the Red River Gym in Grand Forks, N.D.

Basket cases



Keeping warm Clean water activist Christopher Swain, 36, of Colchester, Vt., left, hugs his daughter Rowan Swain, 4, after completing an 81-mile swim down the Charles River. Swain made the swim to draw attention to water pollution.



Potty on the go

Garrison Hale, sitting in the driver's seat, steers an outhouse while other members of the Q-92 team, Kathy Limberg, left, and Maynard Meyer push. Norsky Outhouse racing in downtown Madison, Minn., is part of the town's Norsefest.



Down on the bayou

Barely stirring the water, paddlers begin a four-day trip down Bayou Lafourche from Donaldsonville, La. The float was organized by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program to raise awareness about the bayou.

Squirrel gets a good home

PA HARRISBURG — Nutkin the Squirrel can live out her later years hunting nuts indoors with a Pennsylvania couple, a court has ruled.

The gray squirrel, which was born in South Carolina where there are no rules against domesticating wild squirrels, may be kept by a Schuylkill County couple despite state laws that prohibit keeping wild animals as pets, a Superior Court panel ruled.

Nutkin's owner Barbara Gosselin was charged in 2002 with violating the ban on keeping wild animals after a game officer came across Nutkin while investigating a case of deer poaching.

Gosselin's conviction was overturned and the judges ordered that her \$100 fine and costs be returned.

Stomach full of surprises

CA SANTA CRUZ — A jail inmate allowed to attend a family funeral returned to the jailhouse 12 hours later with a stash of drugs and syringes in his stomach, authorities said.

Josiah Robertson, 30, had been in jail since Oct. 18 on charges of selling and transporting heroin and resisting arrest. Deputies suspected he may have planned a drug run when he asked to attend the funeral, police Sgt. Steve Carney said.

Laxatives and an enema were used and Robertson "gave them up within five hours," Carney said. Robertson expelled 17 grams of black tar heroin, 20 grams of marijuana and four hypodermic syringes.

Lead infections drop

ID KELLLOGG — The amount of lead detected in children who live between Mullan and Cataldo in northern Idaho is dropping, the state health department said. The blood-lead levels for children age 6 and younger nearly met the goal for the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Child blood-lead levels were once at emergency levels. But they dropped dramatically since the Baker Hill Smelter was closed in 1981 and the cleanup program for contaminated soil was developed.

War hero database

MO JEFFERSON CITY — More than 576,000 Missourians who served in the military from the territorial era through World War I are now listed in an Internet-accessible database hosted by the secretary of state's office. The database, which went online in time for Veterans Day, expands an online listing of World War I veterans, which debuted about two years ago. The new version includes information from 12 wars and military engagements, beginning with the War of 1812.

Cattle anthrax deaths

ND BISMARK — Fifteen beef cattle died from anthrax on a Dunn County farm last month and were burned and buried as a precaution, the state veterinarian says. Veterinarian Susan Keller said the Taylor-area farm is under quarantine, but the cattle deaths pose no threat to the public. Keller chose not to publicize the information last month to avoid an

unnecessary scare, she said.

Store owner arrested

TN RED BANK — The owner of a shaved ice business was arrested after two employees claimed he spanked them for making mistakes at work.

Paul Eugene Levensgood, 57, was charged with two counts of sexual battery after the 19-year-old women complained.

One of the women told police that on her first day at the Tasty Flavors Sno Biz, Levensgood made her sign a statement that said: "I give Gene permission to bust my behind any way he sees fit."

Police Sgt. Jay LaFrance said the women likely accepted the spankings instead of leaving immediately because they were "brought up to respect anybody who is an authority figure."

Levensgood was freed on \$2,000 bail pending a Nov. 16 court hearing. His franchise in this Chattanooga suburb was closed.

Nuclear dump dispute

NV LAS VEGAS — Opponents of a national nuclear waste dump in Nevada lost their chance to put an ally in the White House with President Bush's defeat of Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

Bush carried Nevada by 2 percentage points after facing heavy Democratic criticism that he reneged on a 2000 campaign pledge when he approved the plan to entomb 70,000 tons of the nation's most radioactive waste 90 miles from Las Vegas.

Kerry promised that Yucca Mountain would not open on his watch.

Nevada is pressing lawsuits, hoping to stop the government from moving highly radioactive waste from commercial and military sites in 39 states to Yucca Mountain beginning in 2010.

WTC park planned

NY NEW YORK — A small park festooned with sweet gum trees and pink azalea bushes will be built on the north end of the redeveloped World Trade Center, according to newly unveiled plans.

The tiny park, which will cover about a third of an acre at the intersection of Greenwich Street and West Broadway, will open late next year or in early 2006, developer Larry Silverstein said at a conference sponsored by Business for Social Responsibility.

It will also serve as a forecourt to the new 7 World Trade Center, a 52-story office tower that replaces a building destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The tower will open for business early next year.

Lawyer gets DUI charge

FL TAMPA — A prosecutor known for being "tough as nails" in drunken driving cases was charged with a DUI after police said they stopped her with three children in her car.

Lydia Dempsey Wardell, 37, was arrested near her home and was found to have a blood-alcohol level of 0.23 percent, nearly three times the legal limit in Florida for drivers, police said.

She was released on \$500 bail.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Music student's dream

Conductor Seiji Ozawa, artistic director of the Vienna State Opera, will open a music academy overlooking Lake Geneva.



Ozawa

The daily Tribune de Geneve said Friday the academy will offer students the opportunity to perform chamber music with world-class professors.

Ozawa, who spent 29 years with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, hopes to attract the best young talent in Europe to the school in the village of Blonay, above Montreux.

Tuition will be free, the newspapers said. Ozawa hopes to admit 20 to the inaugural class next summer.

Costs for the school's debut season will total about \$212,000, to be funded mainly by individual sponsors, private foundations and local authorities, the newspapers said.

Auditions will take place in Geneva and Cologne, Germany, in coming months, they said.

Peaches on TV

Peaches Geldof, daughter of musician Bob Geldof, will make her television debut presenting a teen documentary.

Geldof, 15, whose middle name is Honeyblossom, will write and present the documentary, which will screen on British television next year, Sam Cash, managing director of production company Ten Alps, said Friday.

Peaches' younger sister Pixie, 14, has appeared as an interviewer on the satellite television program "It's a Girl Thing," while older sister, Fifi Trisibelle, 21, works as an intern on music channel MTV.

Cash said "Peaches Geldof — Inside the Mind of a Teenager" would be a distinctive British look at the struggles of being a teen. It's expected to air in March on satellite channel Sky One.

Harry sets up in South America

Prince Harry arrived in Argentina for a stay of several weeks to work on a polo horse farm before he's scheduled to join the British army next year.



Prince Harry

The 20-year-old landed in Buenos Aires aboard a commercial flight Friday and was expected to spend most of his time at a working ranch in the Argentine countryside, local media reported.

The visit by Harry comes less than a month after he scuffled with a photographer outside a London nightclub.

The photographer, who suffered a cut lip, accused Harry of striking him without provocation in the Oct. 21 altercation. Royal officials said Harry was hit in the face with a camera and pushed back.

Martin picks up achievement award

Too much praise can turn Steve Martin into a wild and insouciant guy.

The star of "The Jerk" and "Bringing Down the House" accepted the American Cinematheque career achievement honor Friday with mock cynicism.

The frequent Saturday Night Live guest host played with his friends in the audience that included Robin Williams, Jon Lovitz, Kevin Nealon, Martin Short, Dana Delany, Eugene Levy, "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" filmmaker Carl Reiner and "Parenthood" director Ron Howard.

"There are so many familiar faces tonight, people I've worked with, people I haven't seen in years and I just thought, 'Why can't we wear name tags? What would be so wrong?'" Martin joked.

"But this evening is especially meaningful to me," Martin said, "because when I was a kid my friends and I used to meet after school and get all dressed up and play 'American Cinematheque awards show.'"

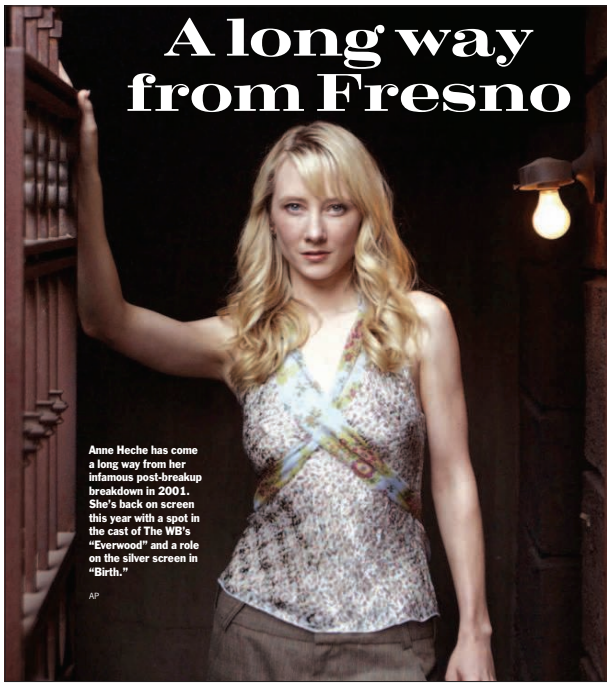
Rick Nicita, chairman of the organization's board, said they chose to honor Martin because he was a "Renaissance man" who has excelled not only as an actor and comedian but as a playwright, novelist, art collector — and even banjo player.



Martin

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

A long way from Fresno



Anne Heche has come a long way from her infamous post-breakup meltdown in 2001. She's back on screen this year with a spot in the cast of The WB's "Everwood" and a role on the silver screen in "Birth."

AP

Actress makes her way back on screen after infamous meltdown

BY MARIA ELENA FERNANDEZ
The Los Angeles Times

Four years ago, you could have called Anne Heche crazy.

Why not? That's what the tabloids took to calling her, and it's what she called herself. "Call Me Crazy" is the title of the 2001 memoir she wrote, she said, to purge herself of her childhood demons and split personality, the one that led her to abandon her car in Fresno, Calif., wearing shorts and a bra, the day after breaking up with Ellen DeGeneres. Then she wandered into a stranger's house, where she showered, put on Mickey Mouse slippers, and tried to persuade the children there to board a spaceship to heaven with her.

In the aftermath of her Fresno Moment, Heche's once-promising career seemed to be reduced to a late-night TV punch line. So you'd be forgiven for taking a double-take at the sight of a sane-looking Heche in Armani, holding her husband's hand and looking calm and vibrant at this year's Emmys, nominated for her role in the Lifetime movie "Gracie's Choice." In the weeks ahead she'll be even more visible: she'll be appearing Monday nights on the WB, where she debuted last week as Amanda Hayes on "Ever-

wood," and next Sunday she'll star in the CBS movie "The Dead Will Tell." On the big screen, Heche will appear in "Birth" with Nicole Kidman in November.

Could so much entertainment-industry money really have been gambled on an actress everyone, it seemed, agreed was out to lunch — who inspired the Los Angeles play "Call Us Crazy: The Anne Heche Monologues?"

Margot Kidder had her "Big Flip-Out," wandering the streets of L.A. for five years, and survived; Patty Duke went public with her manic depression in 1982 and thrived. But they had already established big careers.

Will Tinseltown be as compassionate with Heche as it was with them or with some of its most famous alcoholics, drug addicts and sexuals?

"For better or for worse, people always saw that I chose life," the 35-year-old Heche said recently, relaxing with a vanilla latte at a coffee-house near her penthouse apartment on Beverly Boulevard. "I have always chosen a path that was about finding the love of my life and finding a family. And now my focus can be on my work."

"It's a benefit that I did all those things because I have them to draw on as an actress. If you're looking for

someone with a well to explore emotionally on the screen, I can do it. My challenge now is: Can I create and can I be as creative from a place of love?"

"It's funny, you get really happy in your life and you have nothing to talk about."

Until "Call Me Crazy" was published and she spilled her guts to Barbara Walters, no one knew the back story that explained her strange behavior that day: the sexual abuse she said she suffered as a young girl, which led her to block most of her childhood memories and fill them in with delusions of flying and being the reincarnation of God herself.

Now that time and distance have made all of that a bit hazier, Heche said, she finally can chase the career others always wished for her, but that she placed on the back burner in her desperate quest for love. Her "pre-Fresno" phase lasted 31 years. At 35, and her fourth year of "post-Fresno" serenity, Heche said she is poised to take on Hollywood again, big screen and small.

"It's taken me four years to create my family and feel solid," she said. "I never had a solid family. I didn't want anyone worrying about family love. Even though I've had an incredible, incredible career, and that is my passion, I gave my life to finding the love of my life. I risked everything for that."

Horoscope

Make your deal now — it's done fair and square, and you don't have to worry about the backlash of buyer's remorse or any such thing. The Capricorn moon does get to the point. And with the Scorpio sun rooting for us to clue into what people really want (the story behind the story), it's more likely we can fulfill both spoken and unspoken promises.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 16). This year, you've dropped the need to be jaded, so, at times, you'll feel naive and vulnerable. Life will unfold for you as if you're seeing it for the first time.

Horoscopes are part of what makes this possible. Someone special makes your heart sing in the next three months. Make decisions about work in February. Love signs are Capricorn and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You cajole. You kid. You flatter and flirt. And still, you have no idea where you stand with that closed-off someone. Keep working on it. If anyone can melt through that layer of ancient ice, you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Sweeping changes dazzle you, but don't hang around slack-jawed for long. There's an opportunity in this, and you're just the one to take advantage of it! On a romantic note, be a bit more curious about a loved one's past.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You awake in a swingin' mood, like you've found your inner Austin Powers. Swanky sentiments get the attention of your target audience. Maybe you sing your message; maybe you dance it. However you do it, you do it with style.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

A juicy prize lands in your world, but unfortunately, everyone else wants it, too. It's like a soccer team for 5-year-olds. Everyone huddles around the ball instead of taking his or her position in the field. Your maturity prevails.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You act out of a sense of honor, because it's right, and because you're a noble person. So what if nobody notices

just yet? Don't worry! Someone will — without prompting from you. Tonight, it's up to you to live them things up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You'll have a one-on-one audience with an exalted individual — not the opportunity to divulge your smarts. Keep things friendly and light. A sprightly air sign (a Gemini, Libra or Aquarius) makes your heart beat like a tom-tom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Who can work with the theatrics going on behind the scenes? It's all a con to stop planning your escape and focus on the proceedings. But focus you must if you're to get your share of the rewards.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels so fabulous to be liked and accepted! However, there's no reason to rush into any agreements or declare your passionate alliance with anyone. Take it easy! Keep your cards tucked into your chest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

A relationship tugs at you, trying to get your attention. So it's just not where your head is — does that make you a bad person? No, but you'll proud of yourself later if you stop and acknowledge what others need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Real opportunity doesn't drop names and make big promises. It gives you a shy smile instead and opens the door just a crack so that you can see a sliver of what's possible. Beware of people who are all show, no go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're not backed into a corner. You've got a shy smile instead and opens the door just a crack so that you can see a sliver of what's possible. Beware of people who are all show, no go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're the healer of your environment. As much as you'd like to feel an automatic sense of belonging at work, the kinship has been deteriorating. You'll have to build it from scratch now, and you're the one who can.

Creators Syndicate

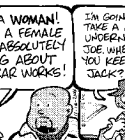
Holiday Mathis



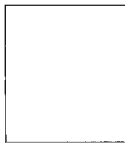
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



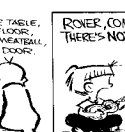
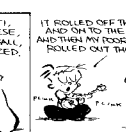
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



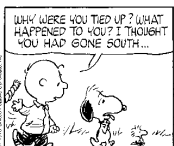
Red Rover



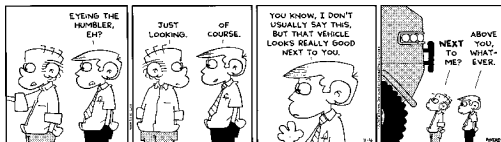
Better or Worse



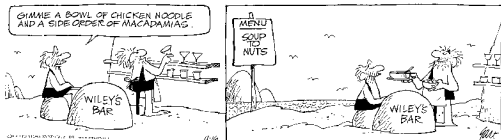
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



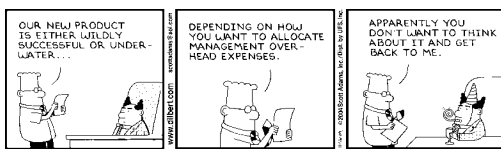
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



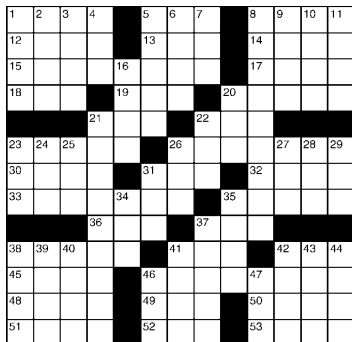
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Heavenly ring
- 5 Hired transport
- 9 Pesky insect
- 12 On the rocks
- 13 Big bother
- 14 "Clue" weapon
- 15 Winner of Super Bowls I and II
- 17 Square
- 18 Feminine pronoun
- 19 Intention
- 20 Banquet
- 21 Martini ingredient
- 22 Enjoyment
- 23 Medieval peasant
- 26 Theft
- 30 Unadulterated
- 31 Male or female
- 32 Chills and fever
- 33 Forgetfulness
- 35 Facade
- 36 Affirmative action
- 37 Tease
- 38 Noble's domain
- 41 Sprite
- 42 — out a living
- 45 Reverberate
- 46 "Basket Case" band
- 48 Winglike
- 49 "— was saying, ..."
- 50 Fairy-tale villain
- 51 Wild a needle
- 52 Nerd-pack occupant

Down

- 1 Exorbitant
- 2 Farm fraction
- 3 Ogile
- 4 Praise in verse
- 5 With 7-Down, 1994 Chris Elliott movie
- 6 Leading man
- 7 See 5-Down
- 8 Alien's quest
- 9 Exploding star
- 10 Mimics
- 11 Bivouac structure
- 12 Advantage
- 13 Apprehend
- 14 Bear hair
- 15 Tenderfoot
- 16 Send electronically
- 23 IRA employee
- 24 Drone
- 25 Grecian vessel
- 26 Actress Thompson
- 27 Id counterpart
- 28 Conventional
- 29 Nevertheless
- 31 Football Hall-of-Famer Luckman
- 34 Sauce source
- 35 Small flute
- 37 Comic Robot
- 38 Out of play
- 39 USC rival
- 40 Burn slightly
- 41 Gaelic
- 42 Advantage
- 43 "Family Feud" host Richard
- 44 Kept tabs on
- 46 Hiatus
- 47 Promptly

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-16

CRYPTOQUIP

KYML CNC KWLFO YMS
FKBL ZNXU FN QNCM
BCCMOBWFMRX. UYM KNDRO

Q SX "NL FYM ONDZRM!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY THAT MOVIES STARRING ACTOR CHEVY HAVE MANY CHASE SCENES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

15 signs of abusive relationship

Dear Abby: In 1996, in memory of a 19-year-old battered woman who was murdered by her boyfriend, you printed an item requested by her family. It changed my life. On March 29 of that year, my dad said, "I have something for you," and handed me your column. It contained a list of 15 warning signs of a batterer. It was my wake-up call.

At first I thought, "How can this help ME?" Well, it did.

Few realize how important a role verbal abuse and criticism play in an abuser's efforts to gain control and keep you from leaving. The verbal abuse was harder for me to deal with than being kicked in the back when I'd walk away from one of his outbursts.

After reading that column, I finally understood there was nothing I could change that would make him love me. Thank you.

Dear Grateful: People often ask if I hear from readers letting me

know how columns affect them. Today I'll reprint that list in your honor.

(1) **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong and pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly.

(3) **CONTROLLING:** Interrogates you intensely (especially if you're late) about whom you talked to and where you were.

(4) **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate.

(5) **ISOLATION:** Tries to cut you off from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble."

(6) **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault.

(7) **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You

make me angry," instead of "I am angry."

(8) **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when actually mad.

(9) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally.

(10) **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will.

(11) **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly untrue things.

(12) **RIGID GENDER ROLES:** Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

(13) **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past.

(15) **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck," or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WHASA

PEDYT

HYLLOW

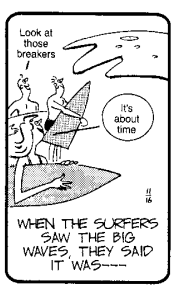
ATWIRE

ANS:

Jumbles: SHYLY NOTCH PREACH MINGLE

Answer: When the scholars took a night flight their conversation was on a — HIGH "PLANE"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

Stand firm with sister's children

Dear Annie: My mother, my husband and I are co-raising my younger sister's two wonderful boys. My sister has many issues (drugs; being one of them) and only wants to be a mom when it is convenient. My mother wants to be a grandma but will not help discipline the kids.

Annie's Mailbox



How do we resolve this without losing the boys to the dark side, and how can we get my mom on the same program?

— Arizona Auntie

Dear Auntie: Let your mother be a grandma. She isn't willing to be anything else, and there's no point in arguing endlessly. If your discipline methods are fair and consistent, ALL of the children will learn to respect you, and they will behave in your presence. The fact that they are testing your limits is normal, so make sure they know what those limits are. You have taken on an enormous responsibility, but you sound quite capable. We commend you for caring enough about your nephews to be the kind of parent they need. Please don't give up on them.

Dear Annie: My niece recently was married in a civil ceremony.

ny. Now she is planning a big wedding for next February. My son will be the best man, and my daughter is the maid of honor.

My niece expects them to give a couple's shower as well as arrange the bachelor and bachelorette parties. This seems excessive to me. And isn't it deceptive to invite hundreds of guests to a wedding that already has taken place?

— Aunt in San Bernardino, Calif.

Dear Aunt: Many couples who have had civil ceremonies later have religious weddings and/or large receptions. It is also OK to have a couple's shower if there were no other showers. However, it's a bit late for bachelor and bachelorette parties, and we hope your children can talk the bride out of those.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"I'm on the honor roll, but there's nothing about it on Google."

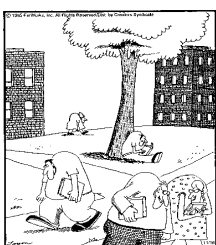


Dennis the Menace



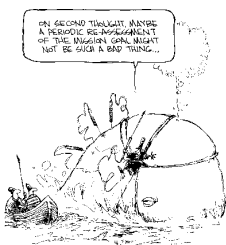
"I SUPPOSE ANYTHING I SAY WILL BE HELD AGAINST ME, RIGHT?"

The Far Side



Between classes at the College of Laboratory Assistants

Non Sequitur



FOR SECOND THOUGHT: MURDER A PERIODIC REARRANGEMENT OF THE UNUSUAL CAN BE NEARLY NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING.

STRIPE CLASSIFIED

Jobs Offered

630

Do You Want To Earn Some Extra Cash?

European Stars and Stripes Home Delivery Carrier

Stars and Stripe Home Delivery Carrier
NEEDED ASAP!!!!

For: Sandhausen, Leimen, Nussloch, and St. Ilgen
Duty Description: Door to Door Newspaper delivery for
120 Home subscribers.

Route duration: 2hrs 15 min
Monthly compensation: \$ 1,200

For more details please call:

James P. Afterbach

District Manager: Civ: 0172-6707-347

Employment Opportunities

JOIN THE
STARS & STRIPES
TEAM TODAY!

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Salary: \$31,500 - \$35,000

Opening: Date 25-Jun-2004

Cutoff Date: N/A

Closing Date: Until Filled

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

3 VACANCIES

Salary: \$32,000-\$38,000

Opening Date: 09-Nov-2004

Cutoff Date: N/A

Closing Date: Until Filled

OFFSET PRINT WORKER

\$10.29 per hour

LABORER

\$8.51 per hour

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT

NF-02/03

\$19,000-\$22,000

OPEN UNTIL FILLED

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

\$21,000-\$23,000

OPEN UNTIL FILLED

How To Apply

Online: <http://www.chrma.hqsourc.army.mil/jobs@mail.stripes.osd.mil>Email Resume: jobs@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Send Resume: European Stars & Stripes,

NAF Personnel Office

Unit 28480, APO AE, 09211

+49 (0) 6155-601238 (Civilian)

349-8238 (DSN)

In Person: European Stars & Stripes, Griesheim Kasern

Flughafenstrasse Geb. 4319, Griesheim Germany

STARS AND STRIPES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE PROVIDED TO
APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES

Civilian: 011 +49 (0) 6155-601433/207
DSN: 349-8433/207



WBA heavyweight champion John Ruiz, left, and Andrew Golota clutched and grabbed for 12 rounds.

Former champ Evander Holyfield, right, now 42, was no match for light-hitting Larry Donald on Saturday.

Fighting a losing battle

Saturday night's dreadful fight card revealed a heavyweight division in need of a champion

By the time Andrew Golota and John Ruiz began their ugliness, it was Sunday morning and some in the crowd at Madison Square Garden had so much to drink that they were fighting among themselves.

Tim Dahlberg



NEW YORK

The late start wasn't all that bad. For those unfortunate enough to buy Don King's heavyweight extravaganza on pay-per-view, at least their children were in bed and didn't have to see it.

Want to know weight's wrong with these days? Look no further than what took place on this chilly fall night in New York City.

Two reigning champions, three former champions and a bunch of guys who dream of being a champion were brought together by King to fight what would be a total of 50 rounds with two major titles at stake.

You might have thought the night would begin to sort out a division that claims four champions, any three of whom you'd be hard pressed to name.

You would have thought wrong.

The televised card began on a bad note, when Evander Holyfield's pathetic quest to win the undisputed heavyweight title exposed him once again as a 42-year-old whose reflexes are shot even though his body looks every bit as good as when he made his pro debut 20 years earlier in the same building.

The crowd tried to urge Holyfield on, chanting his name heartily a few times, as journeyman Larry Donald did everything to Holyfield but convince him to retire.

"In my mind I can't realistically think that it is over," Holyfield said. "But I have to look at the possibility that this is a permanent problem. If this is going to hap-

pen every fight, I can't continue to do it."

At least Holyfield has a proud past to look back on. He won the heavyweight title four times, was an undisputed champion and conquered Mike Tyson.

The fighters who followed him Saturday night who make no such claims.

Hasim Rahman was a one-punch wonder who lost it just as quickly on another punch, and now he's in line for a shot at one of the titles after beating up a former rugby player from New Zealand by the name of Kali McLean.

That set the stage for the first title fight of the night, with undersized IBF champion Chris Byrd taking on the oversized friend, Jameel McCline. Byrd got

knocked down in the second round and took some early punishment before rallying to win a split decision that did nothing to bolster his claim as a true champion.

The worst was saved for last, though, when Ruiz and Golota engaged in a 12-round fiasco that had all the skill and finesse of a 34th Street mugging. Ruiz ended up winning, though it was his buffoonish trainer, Norman Stone, who provided the most entertainment when he threw a punch at Golota's trainer and then was ejected for throwing some tape at the referee.

By the end, even the drunks in the upper seats had quit fighting, resigned perhaps to the fact the evening had nearly come and gone and they still hadn't seen a heavyweight who was more than just a pretender to the crown.

Part of that can be blamed on King, who has locked up almost any heavyweight who can figure out how to lace up his boots. King won't risk his fighters losing titles to anyone he doesn't have options on, which is why he resurrected Golota from boxing's graveyard and gave him title fights in successive bouts against Byrd and Ruiz.

Perhaps the best fighter in New

York over the weekend didn't fight at all. WBC champion Vitali Klitschko was there to have lunch with some writers, declare he would fight anyone, and then explain in the same breath why he's defending his title against one-shot wonder Danny Williams next month.

The truth is, there is no Ali, Foreman or Frazier among this bunch. There's not even a Tyson, though Tyson will likely take his freak show on the road again in March if he can find a stiff who is so bad he can beat him.

There are, however, some decent fighters in the group, though all operate under some handicaps. Byrd is too small, Ruiz fights too ugly, Rahman is too quirky and Klitschko is too slow.

They all have one thing in common, though. None of them can sell a ticket, which is why the Garden's balcony section was empty.

Saturday night despite King's heavy promotion of this ton of heavyweight fights.

For that, someone has to change, someone has to take a chance and the champions have to start fighting each other.

ing each other. What is left of a boxing public not yet alienated by multiple champions and weight divisions craves an undisputed heavyweight champion.

Let's begin by tossing the WBO version of the belt in the trash, where it belongs. Lamont Brewster is a nice guy, but he's done nothing to earn being called a heavyweight champion.

Next, have Ruiz fight Byrd. It may not be pretty, but at least boxing fans wouldn't have to sit through another night where both defend titles.

At some point, if Klitschko hasn't been exposed by then as a one-dimensional fighter, they can get together and unify the titles.

Just do us one favor: Whatever happens, don't let Holyfield have any part of it.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@ap.org

Three-goal flurry lifts United



United goalkeeper Nick Rimando (18) celebrates with teammates after beating Kansas City in the MLS Cup on Sunday.

Eskandarian's goals turn MLS Cup

BY KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Alecko Eskandarian sported a wide grin and had a big cigar clamped between his teeth.

"It's not lit," he said.

Asked about being spotted earlier with a cigar that was, he chuckled and said, "Yeah, but I didn't inhale."

Eskandarian had reason to be jovial. He scored twice in a 4-minute span in the first half to help D.C. United beat Kansas City 3-2 in the MLS Cup on Sunday.

"What a great year we had," said Eskandarian, a 22-year-old former University of Virginia star taken with the first pick in the 2003 MLS Draft.

"We had a meeting last night, and Earnie Stewart said that this group of guys will be on the field together for the last time. It was a great finish."

His team might have to expand the trophy case. In the nine years the MLS Cup has been contested, United has been in the final five times and won four.

The championship was the second for Peter Novak. He was the MVP of Chicago's 1998 MLS Cup victory over United, and was on the winning side again this time as United's rookie coach.

He talked earlier about the disappointment of losing the 2002 game, when he and the Fire were defeated by the Wizards.

"I got my trophy back," Novak said. "When you raise a trophy as a player or a coach, it's a satisfying feeling."

They [the players] make me look like a genius, all their hard work. I put them through hell, really worked them, but now they get to enjoy it."

United spotted the Wizards a goal in the sixth minute, then scored three times in a 7-minute span of the first half.

Eskandarian's goal in the 19th minute tied it 1-1, and he added his second goal 4 minutes later.

United built a two-goal lead on an own-goal when a pass by Stewart deflected off Wizards defender Alex Zlotnic and into the net in the 26th minute.

Kansas City closed to 3-2 on Josh Wolff's penalty kick in the 58th minute. The Wizards were awarded the kick when United's Denna Kovalevko, protecting the goal line, used his hand to knock a shot by Davy Arnaud over the bar.

Kovalevko was ejected, the first player sent off in the nine-year history of the Cup.

Despite being down a man, United held off the Wizards the rest of the way.

Kansas City's Bob Gansler, the Wizards' coach when they won the title four years ago, complimented United.

"To use an old bit of soccer wisdom, you play about as well as your opponent lets you," he said.

Freddy Adu, United's 15-year-old phenom, came on as a substitute in the 65th minute to a roar from the crowd of 25,797. He made a run down the side with the ball late in the game, but goalkeeper Bo Oshoniye was able to pick it up before Adu could get off a shot.

Adu became the youngest member of a major pro championship team in the United States in modern sports history.

"Even if I wasn't going to get out there, I was going to cheer my heart

out on the bench," Adu said. "It's awesome."

After Jose Burciaga's curling 35-yard shot gave the Wizards the lead in the sixth minute, Eskandarian got United rolling.

"Even after their first goal, I never had any doubt we were going to win this game," Novak said.

Eskandarian, whose father, Andriani, played for the Cosmos of the North American Soccer League, scored his first goal with a workmanlike individual effort. His second came after a Kansas City clearing pass bounced off his arm and toward the Wizards' goal.

Eskandarian, with the Wizards' Diego Gutierrez tight on him at the top of the box, controlled a pass from Brian Carroll, whirled around Gutierrez and boomed the ball into the net to draw United even.

He made it 2-1 when he came flying in — arm up — to deflect the ball as Jimmy Conrad tried to kick it downfield. As the ball rolled toward the goal, Eskandarian chased it down and then shot to the left as Oshoniye went the other way.

The apparent handball went unnoticed by referee Michael Kennedy.

"I didn't even know where the ball hit me," Eskandarian said. "It was just what you learn in youth soccer — you keep going until you hear a whistle."

Gansler said of the no-call, "If the ref doesn't call it, then it's not a handball. I applaud United's opportunism."

The own-goal game when Stewart's hard cross bounced off Zlotnic, who was rushing back toward the goal.

San Jose has won the MLS Cup twice, the only team other than United with multiple championships.



Maria Sharapova reacts after winning a game against Anastasia Myskina during the semifinals of the WTA Tour Championships. She plays Serena Williams in the final.

Williams earns shot at revenge with Sharapova

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Serena Williams pretended she couldn't remember playing Maria Sharapova in the Wimbledon final, amnesia being a convenient way of forgetting her one-sided loss.

"I don't know who it was," she said, half serious and half smiling. "I wasn't at Wimbledon this year."

The Russian trounced Williams 6-1, 6-4 for her first Grand Slam title at 17, a victory that propelled Sharapova to worldwide stardom and turned her blonde sex appeal into a lucrative off-court industry.

Williams won't be able to pretend Monday night, when she plays Sharapova in the final of the season-ending WTA Championships. The winner will receive \$1 million, and a car to donate to her favorite charity.

Williams won the tournament in 2001 and was second in 2002, while Sharapova is playing for the first time. Sharapova is ranked sixth, and Williams is eighth.

"She obviously is going to want her revenge," Sharapova said. "Hey, I'm in the finals of the championships, and I want it, too."

Williams will try to salvage a season that, by her definition, wasn't the best.

She won two titles, but no Grand Slams. She skipped the Australian Open while rehabilitating her knee, then had quarterfinal losses to Jennifer Capriati at both the French and U.S. Opens and lost Wimbledon after beating Amelie Mauresmo in a three-set semifinal.

On Sunday in the semifinals, Williams outlasted Mauresmo 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4, and Sharapova beat Anastasia Myskina 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 for the first time after losing to her countrywoman three other times this year.

Mauresmo's loss guaranteed Lindsay Davenport will retain the top spot when the year-end WTA rankings are released Tuesday. The Frenchwoman had to win the tournament to topple Davenport, who failed to advance to the semifinals. Davenport also ended the year No. 1 in 1998 and 2001.

Mauresmo failed to convert any of her 12 break points in the third set, when Williams hit winners on 10 of them.

"I felt like I forced her to play her best level and really make some passing shots and make some unbelievable saves," said Mauresmo, whose 11-match winning streak ended.

Mauresmo had six break points in the fourth game, but Williams held at 2-all. Williams outlasted Mauresmo in a 13-deuce, 32-point game to hold for a 5-3 lead.

"It was definitely intense," Williams said. "Amelie was playing some good shots and getting the balls back. Finally, I was able to just do it. It was really hard. She started coming to the net a bit more and she was taking some pace off the ball. Then I just decided to go for it."

Johnson sweep tightens Nextel Cup chase

Gordon, Earnhardt lose ground at Darlington

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Jeff Gordon was disgusted and Dale Earnhardt Jr. was disappointed. Emotions were running high after the Southern 500 on Sunday, with both Gordon and Earnhardt losing ground in the Nextel Cup championship.

They were a long way off from Jimmie Johnson, who used a season sweep at Darlington Raceway to pull within striking distance of his first title. Then there was Kurt Busch, who once again overcame every obstacle to retain his lead in the standings.

The result is the closest points race in NASCAR history heading into the season finale next weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Just 82 points separate Busch, the leader, from fifth-place Mark Martin.

"This is what we have now with the points structure, a playoff system where everybody is on edge, everybody has to make those split-second decisions and drive the same way," Busch said.

"There's no real template on what to do because this has never been done before."

The title is up for grabs among drivers so skilled that it's not a question of who will win it, rather who will lose it. Gordon thinks he came awfully close to giving up his chance Sunday.

He was the most dominant driver



at Darlington, leading three times for a race-high 155 laps. But a mistake in the pits cost him the victory. His car came down on an air hose, causing a delay that cost them the lead as they pulled it out from under a tire and continued on with the pit stop.

Gordon wound up third, and is third in the standings, 21 points behind Busch.

"Mistakes happen. I've made them, everybody makes them," he said. "But right now at this time in the game in this championship, that cost us a lot. I'm pretty disappointed."

He sounded pretty angry, too, especially when he said "extra pit practice" would be essential this time in preparation for the finale.

Earnhardt had his struggles, as well.

His battery went dead late in the race, and only a timely caution helped him avoid a disastrous finish. His crew had time to change the battery under caution, and he salvaged an 11th-place finish. But he lost ground in the race. He's fourth, 72 points back.

"That's too many, too many points," he said. "We'll go to

Homestead and, damn, try our best. But that's a lot of points for one race, especially the way Jimmie and Jeff ran at the test at Homestead, the way they always run, and the way they've run lately."

"We'll have to be lucky. Need to be good, too. It's hard to be both at the same time."

Busch has mastered that. He battled an ill-handling car throughout the race but still eked out a sixth-place finish.

But no one is in better position than Johnson, who went from ninth place and seemingly out of title contention six weeks ago to striking distance of his first championship.

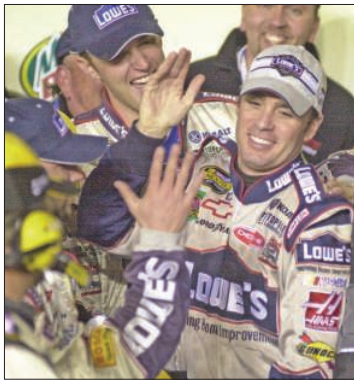
He has won four of the past five races to slice his deficit from 247 to 10 to right on Busch's bumper.

Johnson has dedicated his season to the 10 people killed when a Hendrick Motorsports plane crashed Oct. 24 en route to the race at Martinsville Speedway.

"Fighting our way back in this championship with what took place with the airplane and Hendrick Motorsports, I just can't believe it," he said. "We have eight wins now in the season with everybody still healing from the loss over everybody on that airplane."

"That void inside of me just isn't filled, but this certainly helps. This is good medicine. We'll just keep rolling with it."

Johnson, who gave his crew credit for getting him to the lead late in the race with two fast pit



Jimmie Johnson, center, gives a high five to his crew as they celebrate winning the Mountain Dew Southern 500 on Sunday in Darlington, S.C. Johnson won both races held this season at Darlington, which will only host one Nextel Cup race a year from now on.

stops, had to overtake rookie Kasey Kahne and Jamie McMurray after they stayed out when the other leaders pitted for tires during the last of eight caution periods.

Johnson's Chevrolet beat Martin's Ford to the finish line to give him his second Darlington win this year.

The Southern 500, traditionally run on Labor Day weekend, was moved to November when NASCAR gave the holiday date to the newer, bigger California Speedway. Darlington, which hosts only about 60,000 spectators, will lose the second event to Texas Motor Speedway next year and will have only a race in May.

Busch enters finale clinging to narrow points lead

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Kurt Busch has spun out, blown an engine and raced a car that drove more like a bulldozer. No matter what the circumstances, none has been bad enough to cost him his points lead.

Busch battled an ill-handling car throughout the Southern 500 on Sunday, but still eked out a sixth-place finish. He left Darlington Raceway with his lead intact, and heads into next week's season finale with an 18-point advantage over Jimmie Johnson.

Four drivers are within striking distance of Busch, with 82 points separating first place through fifth.

"This is what we have now with the points structure, a playoff system where everybody is on edge, everybody has to make those split-second decisions and drive the same way," Busch said.

"There's no real template on what to do because this has never been done before."

If there's no template, then whatever plan Busch and his Roush Racing team are following should be the model for every team to use.



Kurt Busch (97) collides with Brendan Gaughan (77) during Sunday's NASCAR race in Darlington, S.C. Busch finished sixth and held onto his Nextel Cup points lead despite battling an ill-handling car all day.

Everything that could wrong has gone wrong for Busch during NASCAR's new 10-race playoff format.

He spun out and nearly wrecked in Kansas, yet still finished sixth. He wrecked on the first lap at Charlotte, drove through oil and had to slide through the grass to avoid a catastrophic accident, yet still wound up fourth.

The engine on the No. 97 Ford blew up in Atlanta, and he ended up 42nd for his only finish outside the top 10 in a Chase race.

Last week he spun out twice at Phoenix, and seemed headed for

a miserable day at Darlington when the handling on his car went away shortly after the start of the race.

As the sun went down, Busch lost sight of the cars around him on the track and ran into Brendan Gaughan to cause fender damage.

Still, his crew worked hard all day to keep his car competitive and salvage his spot on top of the standings.

"That's what it takes for any team to win a championship — to prosper from a horrible day," Busch said. "We feel as if we dodged a bullet."

But there's still more work to do.

The points race between the top five drivers — Jeff Gordon is 21 back, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 back and Mark Martin is 82 out — is the closest in the modern era. And the 18-point difference between Busch and Johnson is the third closest.

Car owner Jack Roush wants his driver to stay grounded.

"It's his to lose," Roush said. "I told everybody that we expect to win and hope to win, but we've got to prepare to lose and how we're going to deal with the frustration of having it all go upside-down after it's been so good for so long."

Qualifying to be revamped next season

The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — A new post-qualifying procedure designed to save money and significantly alter racing weekends will begin next season in NASCAR.

Car owner Jack Roush said he and his crew chiefs were briefed on the measures Saturday at Darlington Raceway. NASCAR is expected to announce the plans this week.

Under the plan, qualifying would be moved from Friday to Saturday, then the cars would be impounded. They would then line up Sundays with no tire, gear or shock absorber changes.

NASCAR chairman Brian France said the plans are still under consideration. If implemented, France said "time is the cost they'll be helping teams save."

Roush said it was a "watershed" change for Nextel Cup.

"I think it will save the teams money. I think it will result in at least as good if not more exciting racing and we'll look back at it after we've done it for a while like, 'Wow, why had we done it any other way,'" he said. "It's all good news."

Giants sign SS Vizquel to 3-year, \$12.25M deal

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Free agent shortstop Omar Vizquel has agreed to terms with the San Francisco Giants, the team announced Sunday.

Vizquel agreed to a \$12.25 million, three-year contract, a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Vizquel, a nine-time Gold Glove winner, becomes the first of 207 free agents to join a new team, and the second to sign overall after Texas reliever Doug Brocail returned to the Rangers on Friday on a \$1 million, one-year deal.

The 37-year-old Vizquel, one of baseball's best defensive shortstops and a switch-hitter, batted .291 (.165-for-567) with seven homers and 59 RBIs last season for the Cleveland Indians. He also scored 82 runs, stole 19 bases and did not commit an error over the last 55 games.

Sports briefs

Vizquel filed for free agency last month after the Indians declined to pick up his \$5 million option for 2005.

Daly-Donofrio cruises in LGPA's champions tournament

MOBILE, Ala. — Heather Daly-Donofrio cruised to a four-stroke win Sunday in the LGPA Tournament of Champions, securing a three-year exemption on the LGPA Tour.

Daly-Donofrio wasn't supposed to be in the select field, but got in when tournament officials extended the eligibility criteria to include winners from 2001.

She shot a 70 to finish at 19-under 269. Laura Diaz birdied the last two holes to shoot 69 and finished second.

New York, four other cities submit bids for 2012 Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The IOC received bids to host the 2012 Summer Olympics from London, Madrid, Moscow, New York and Paris.

Representatives from London and Madrid were at the International Olympic Committee's headquarters Monday to present their bids. The other three cities mailed their bids.

The host will be selected by the IOC in Singapore in July 2005.

Sooners still No. 2 in BCS

Computers give Oklahoma edge over Auburn

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Oklahoma remained second in the Bowl Championship Series standings Monday, holding off Auburn because of a stronger computer ranking.

Southern California is still No. 1 with a grade of 9808.

Oklahoma's grade is 9621, and Auburn's is 9350.

Last week, the Sooners led the Tigers by .0567. Now, Oklahoma's lead is down to .0271.

The Tigers made up lots of ground on the Sooners in the polls on Sunday, tying Oklahoma for second in The Associated Press Top 25 and getting within two points of No. 2 in the coaches poll.

The polls each count for a third of a BCS grade. A compilation of six computer rankings make up the other third, and according to the computers Oklahoma is the best team in the country.

Oklahoma is second in the computer rankings and Auburn is third.

The top two teams in the final BCS standings, which will be released Dec. 5, play for the national title in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

The Trojans, Sooners and Tigers are all 10-0.

Bowl Championship Series standings

	AP	Nov. 15, 2004	USA/ESPN	Computer	BCS	Py
1. Southern Cal	1	1698	9895	1514	9928	2
2. Oklahoma	2	1536	9492	2	1435	9410
3. Auburn	12	1330	8962	5	1423	8997
4. California	6	1409	8671	4	1311	8597
5. Texas	6	1391	8006	3	1272	8013
6. Utah	9	1316	8098	6	1200	7889
7. Florida St.	13	1279	4065	1	1191	4065
8. Michigan St.	10	1004	6178	8	999	6551
9. Boise St.	13	979	4065	12	847	5423
10. Louisville	8	1046	6437	11	880	5770
11. Georgia	12	1012	6228	9	948	6216
12. Miami	12	834	5132	13	774	5075
13. Wisconsin	9	1012	6228	9	948	6216
14. Arizona St.	20	442	2720	21	411	2695
15. Virginia Tech	115	731	4511	15	688	4511
16. LSU	14	786	4837	14	771	5056
17. Tennessee	115	731	4511	16	580	3803
18. Iowa	17	626	3952	17	519	3403
19. Virginia	18	541	3329	18	432	3129
20. Texas A&M	22	274	1686	22	272	1784
21. Boston College	19	686	4015	19	433	2639
22. Oklahoma St.	23	223	1372	23	229	1502
23. West Virginia	21	330	2031	24	113	2748
24. UTEP	24	152	0935	25	87	0570
25. Bowling Green	25	42	0758	24	117	0767

The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Associated Press, USA Today/ESPN Coaches and Computer polls.

Auburn surged on the heels of its 24-6 victory over Southeastern Conference rival Georgia on Saturday. Oklahoma beat Nebraska 30-3, as appeared to be hurt in the polls by recent close calls against Oklahoma State and Texas A&M. The computers, however, have been partial to the Sooners' quality wins away from home in the Big 12 and strength of schedule.

California (.8522) is fourth,

Texas (.8140) is fifth and Utah (.8062) is back in the sixth spot, after slipping to seventh last week.

The unbeaten Utes are trying to become the first team from a mid-major conference to earn a BCS bid. They can lock up a spot by finishing in the top six. Utah is .0568 ahead of seventh-place Michigan with a game to play against Mountain West Conference rival BYU on Saturday.

Bonds wins record seventh MVP

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds won his record seventh NL MVP award in a walk.

Capping a season of suspicion and success, the San Francisco Giants left fielder became the oldest player to win the award. The 40-year-old received 24 first-place votes and 407 points Monday in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America to earn the award for the fourth straight season.

Los Angeles third baseman Adrian Beltré was second, getting six first-place votes and 311 points, and St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols was third with one first and 247 points. St. Louis third baseman Scott Rolen got the other first-place vote and finished fourth, followed by teammate Jim Edmonds.

Bonds is the only player with more than three MVP awards and the only one to win more than two in a row. Willie Stargell was previously the oldest to win it, sharing the 1979 NL award with Keith Hernandez at 39½.

Among the four major North American professional sports, he trails only the NHL's Wayne Gretzky, who won nine MVPs. In the NBA, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar leads with six.

Bonds became only the third player to hit 700 career homers, and with 703 trails only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). But following his grand jury testimony in a federal investigation, he repeatedly was questioned whether he used steroids.

His personal trainer has been indicted for illegal distribution of steroids, but Bonds has denied using illegal steroids.

Bonds' season was unparalleled statistically. He hit .362 to win his second NL batting title in three seasons and shattered the major league record with a .629 on-base percentage, topping the previous mark of .582 he set two years ago.

He walked 232 times, far more than the previous record he set in 2002 and more than 100 better than anyone else in baseball this season, and his 120 intentional walks obliterated the old mark of 68, also set by Bonds in 2002.

Bonds' .812 slugging percentage led the major leagues for the fourth straight season but fell short



San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds won his record seventh NL MVP award Monday. Bonds, 40, became the oldest player to win the award.

of the record he set at .863 in 2001. He hit 45 homers and matched Aaron's NL record of eight 40-homer seasons, trailing only Ruth's major league mark of 11. He also became the first player in major league history with 13 consecutive 30-homer seasons.

Bonds earned a \$500,000 bonus for winning the award, and Beltré, Edmonds, Pujols and Rolen earned bonuses of \$50,000 each.

Play the

NFL
Challenge

WIN CASH!

Monday in Stars and Stripes
and on Oonus.com

your guide to winter sports...

every Thursday in stripes travel

FRONT RAM BUMPER



The Ibis Tek Front Ram Bumper (FRB) attached to the front of the vehicle enables the HMMWV to easily push or smash objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. The FRB has been impact tested to 35 MPH without damaging the HMMWV or the bumper. For those HMMWVs with a front extension kit to open the roof with a brush guard attached we will include a modification kit at no additional charge, just let us know.

Optional wire cutters easily mount to the FRB and are easily stored in the front compartments when not required. FRB accommodates the recovery winch if desired.

Email us a picture of you
with our product and we'll
send you a FREE Ibis Tek T-Shirt

Ibis Tek GSA# GS06741BIS
www.ibistek.com

Steelers land knockout blow vs. Browns

By TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The pregame fight might have been a draw. The main event was a knockout.

Starting in warmups, the Pittsburgh Steelers landed every punch.

Behind their unbeat quarterback who refuses to play like a rookie, the Steelers rolled to their seventh straight victory, beating the Cleveland Browns 24-10 on Sunday.

The Steelers (8-1) did it the only way they know how. They pounded Jerome Bettis up the middle. They blitzed Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia relentlessly. They protected Ben Roethlisberger, and they didn't suffer a letdown.

"This team is special," said Bettis, who had two short touchdown runs.

Unfazed by Gerard Warren's pregame threats or anything Cleveland's defense threw at him, Roethlisberger became the first rookie quarterback to begin 7-0 since the 1970 merger.

"Ben doesn't get rattled," receiver Hines Ward said. "For him (Warren) to make comments like that wasn't very smart. Maybe he's jealous of Ben."

The Steelers, with their best record since the 1978 team reached 9-1, took smashmouth football to a new extreme.

During pregame warmups, Pittsburgh linebacker Joey Porter punched Browns running back William Green, bloodying his lower lip during their fight. Both were ejected before the opening kickoff.

After handing New England and Philadelphia their first losses the past two weeks, Pittsburgh could have gotten caught overlooking the Browns. No chance.



Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (17) throws a pass from behind the block of Keydrick Vincent (68) in the second quarter of the Steelers' 24-10 win over Cleveland.

The Steelers remain the NFL's hottest team.

"We haven't done anything yet," coach Bill Cowher said. "We're fighting and scratching for everything we can get every week. We're not that much better than that team over there."

Bettis, starting for the second straight week in place of injured Duane Staley,

gained 103 yards on 29 carries, scoring from the 5 and 1 in the first half.

"That's my job, what I'm here for is to be a relief pitcher," Bettis said. "The guys behind the starters have to help. That happened, James Harrison had a real good game."

Harrison filled in for Porter, who exchanged pit and fists with Green during

their pregame bout. Harrison had six tackles and one of Pittsburgh's four sacks of Garcia.

On the final sack, Steelers safety Russell Stuvarts returned Garcia's fumble 24 yards for a TD.

The 104th game in the NFL's fiercest rivalry was particularly nasty — before-hand.

Earlier in the week, Warren promised to go after Roethlisberger's head, saying: "Kill the head and the body is dead." Warren was warned by the league on Friday to watch himself or risk a suspension.

Warren, who had one tackle, spoke with Roethlisberger before the game and explained his comments.

"They were private words not to be repeated," Warren said.

Roethlisberger said Warren was respectful.

"We talked a little bit, we laughed," Roethlisberger said. "He said, 'Let's play football, forget about what was said and enjoy today.' That was OK with me."

Roethlisberger wasn't spectacular, just an efficient 10-for-16 for 134 yards. He also had 41 yards rushing as he smartly avoided pressure by running from the Browns (3-6).

Roethlisberger gained 13 yards on a key third-and-1 late in the third quarter, faking a handoff and running left behind a nice block from receiver Plaxico Burress for a first down.

"I told you the kid was good," Warren said.

Meanwhile, the Browns are in disarray. They've lost three in a row and there is growing speculation that coach Butch Davis' job is in serious jeopardy.

"I'm more concerned about the 53 guys in that locker room, of them regaining respect and playing well. That's my biggest concern," said Davis, 24-33 since 2001 and 1-8 vs. Pittsburgh.

Manning, Colts get unexpected help from defense

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning threw five touchdown passes for the third time this season and had 320 yards, pacing the Indianapolis Colts to a 49-14 thrashing of the Houston Texans on Sunday.

Indianapolis (6-3) retained its share of the AFC South lead with Jacksonville with a surprisingly staunch defense. Robert Mathis had three sacks and forced three fumbles and the Colts finished with a season-high five sacks. They also returned a fumble and an interception for touchdowns.

Houston dropped to 4-5.



Falcons 24, Buccaneers 14: At Atlanta, Alge Crumpler caught a 49-yard TD pass from Michael Vick to clinch the victory for the Falcons (7-2).

Crumpler had four catches for a career-best 118 yards, and the Falcons rushed for 205 yards. Atlanta also had a season-high seven sacks, with Matt Stewart and Rod Coleman each getting two. The Bucs are 3-6.

Rams 23, Seahawks 12: At St.

Louis, the Rams tied Seattle atop the NFC West at 5-4, holding the Seahawks to three field goals in five trips inside the 20.

St. Louis' Marshall Faulk had a season-best 139 yards on 18 carries.

Seattle's Shaun Alexander ran for 176 yards, giving him 531 yards in the last three games and putting him over 1,000 yards for the fourth straight season. But Alexander's fumble after a 35-yard gain to the St. Louis 9 early in the fourth quarter blew the Seahawks' chance to tie it.

Saints 27, Chiefs 20: At New Orleans, Aaron Brooks threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to Joe

Horn midway through the fourth quarter for the Saints (4-5).

Horn had five catches for 167 yards, and Deuce McAllister ran for 127 yards and a touchdown. Derrick Blaylock, playing for the injured Priest Holmes, had 33 carries for 186 yards and a touchdown on the Chiefs (3-6).

Panthers 37, 49ers 27: At San Francisco, Muhsin Muhammad caught three touchdowns passes from Jake Delhomme in the second half as Carolina (2-7) snapped a six-game slide.

Panther Todd Sauerbrun made the go-ahead 34-yard field goal after regular kicker John Kasay injured his calf. Delhomme was

19-of-34 for 303 yards — 123 on six passes to Muhammad. San Francisco is 1-8.

Cardinals 17, Giants 14: At Phoenix, Emmitt Smith ran for two TDs and Arizona (4-5) sacked Kurt Warner six times, including four by Bertrand Berry.

Smith rushed for 67 yards, passing 18,000 yards in his career.

After opening 4-1, the Giants are 5-4.

Bengals 17, Redskins 10: At Landover, Md., Rudi Johnson ran for 102 yards and 31 carries to help the Bengals (4-5) snap a six-game road losing streak. The Redskins dropped to 3-6.

**Better Computers.
Better Financing.
Better Service.**

No Credit?

Bad Credit?

No Problem!

800HighTech.com

Feeley in, Fiedler out in Miami

The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins interim coach Jim Bates has made his first big decision: He's switching quarterbacks.

A.J. Feeley will replace Jay Fiedler as the starter Sunday at Seattle, Bates said Monday. It's Miami's most significant lineup change in the wake of coach Dave Wannstedt's resignation last week.

Wannstedt drew criticism for his loyalty to the older, more experienced Fiedler. Excluding two games early this season, Fiedler has been the No. 1 quarterback since 2000.

"It's time for A.J. to get an opportunity and see what he can do," Bates said. "He's ready to play for us, and ready to play well."

Feeley replaced Fiedler midway through the season opener, started the second and third games, then returned to the bench. He has thrown six interceptions, with three returned for scores, and just two touchdowns.

With the Dolphins (1-8) facing numerous offseason decisions, playing Feeley provides a chance to gauge his potential.

Ravens make most of turnover

Reed intercepts halfback pass, Baltimore goes on to beat Jets

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ed Reed made another big play when he made out to, though he should probably send a thank-you note to LaMont Jordan.

Reed had a momentum-changing interception in the end zone off a halfback option pass from Jordan late in the second quarter, helping the Baltimore Ravens get back into a game they were in danger of being blown out of by the New York Jets.

Kyle Boller turned the interception into points, then keyed a rally that ended when Matt Stover kicked a 42-yard field goal in overtime to give the Ravens a 20-17 victory Sunday over the suddenly free-falling Jets.

With Baltimore down 14-0 late in the second quarter, Reed looked on in bewilderment as Jordan attempted to throw the pass through heavy traffic. Jordan was trying to toss the ball away but instead it went 4 yards deep into the end zone.

Reed took it and went 104 yards for a score, but it was called back on a holding penalty. A week ago in a 27-13 victory over Cleveland, Reed had an NFL-record 106-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Although Reed's score was called back, Boller threw a 6-yard TD pass to Clarence Moore to get the Ravens (6-3) to 14-7 just before the break.

"I didn't expect it because they were all bunched up and I didn't



Baltimore's Clarence Moore catches a 6-yard TD pass from Kyle Boller in the second quarter of Sunday's 20-17 defeat of the New York Jets.

see anyone open," Reed said. "There were a lot of players in the area. It was a chance they took."

A chance Jets coach Herman Edwards must regret. The Jets (6-3) have lost two straight and three of four, and this defeat could end up hurting them in the wild-card race. It also could sent them spiraling out of playoff contention.

The call from usually conservative offensive coordinator Paul Hackett seemed completely out of place. Curtis Martin scored twice on runs to give the Jets the two-touchdown lead. Quincy Carter, filling in for the injured Chad Pennington, made no mistakes up to that point.

But when Hackett sent down the play for Jordan, Edwards did not veto it. Instead, he watched as

Jordan was mobbed and failed to either be tackled for a loss or throw the ball away.

"We run the play, thought it might work, and thought we maybe would get up 21 on them," Edwards said. "The worst thing that could have happened, happened. We threw an interception."

Jordan took the blame. "I automatically said that this game is on my shoulders," he said. "That play definitely was the turning point in the game. We are up 14-0, we just had a big play, and we are going in to score, then I threw an interception. They get the momentum and we just never got the momentum back."

Carter was awful in the second half, along the rest of his teammates on offense. After going 8-for-8 for 132 yards in the first half, Carter was 5-for-14 for 43 yards after the break. After racking up 209 first-half yards, the Jets had 96 the rest of the way. Martin ended with 119 yards in 28 carries.

Meanwhile, Baltimore played its way back into the game.

Stover kicked a 24-yard field goal to make it 14-10 and Boller threw a 16-yard TD pass to Clarence Moore with 4:13 remaining to go up 17-14.

The Jets tied it on Doug Brien's 20-yard field goal with 5 seconds to go in regulation after another mistake cost them a chance at a touchdown. On third-and-goal from the 3 following an incomplete pass, the Jets wasted their final timeout with 8 seconds remaining because Carter broke the huddle too late and there was little chance they could get the play off in time.

In overtime, the Jets went 3-for-4 on two drives before the more-familiar drive for the winning score. Boller finished 19-for-33 for 213 yards with two interceptions.

Bears OT safety tops Tennessee

BY TERESA WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Craig Krenzel knows he deserves credit for the Chicago Bears' latest victory.

"Our defense is playing as well, if not better, than any defense in the league," the quarterback said. "They came through big again for us."

That is an understatement. Alex Brown sacked backup Billy Volek in the end zone and knocked the ball loose, and Adelewa Ogundimu touched down Titans tackle Fred Miller after he covered up theumble giving the Bears a safety and a 19-17 overtime victory over Tennessee on Sunday. The Bears' defense also scored a touchdown.

It was only the second NFL game to end on a safety in overtime. The other was Nov. 5, 1989, when Minnesota beat the Los Angeles Rams 23-21 by blocking a punt through the end zone.

The Bears (4-5) have won three straight for the first time since the end of the 2001 season, the last year they reached the playoffs.

This victory, combined with Green Bay's victory over Minnesota, has Chicago tied with Detroit for the NFC North.

"It's tough getting a win on the road like this, but this team each week keeps getting a little bit better," first-year coach Louie Smith said.

Chicago didn't match the seven sacks and five turnovers forced in last week's victory over the New York Giants, but the Bears' timing couldn't have been better on its third sack. The Bears allowed the Titans 390 yards of offense, but forced three turnovers.

"We believe that if it comes down to us, we can win," Brown said. "We don't feel that a team can drive the ball down the field on us."

The Titans (3-6) came in needing a victory to keep alive faint playoff hopes before starting a three-game road trip through the AFC South. The defense responded with five sacks, three turnovers and just 176 yards allowed.

The outcome left the Titans defenders wondering what else they could have done.

"It is just inexcusable to lose at home against Chicago with them starting a rookie quarterback," cornerback Sami Rodin said.

Wendell Kendrick didn't beat the Titans. But he did come through late in regulation, going 4-for-7 for 65 yards to set up punt Eric Stoner. Stoner's 29-yard field goal tied the game 17-17 with 52 seconds left.

The offense provided points only on the field goal. Krenzel finished 19-for-28 for 116 yards.

Michael Haynes tipped an interception to himself and returned it 45 yards for a TD at the end of the first half. The Titans' punt guard R.W. McQuarters returned a punt 75 yards early in the third quarter for a 14-7 Chicago lead.

Americ run defense again dooms Lions

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Detroit Lions won't have to spend much time analyzing their third game losing streak.

They know exactly what went wrong: they didn't stop the run.

Fred Taylor ran for a season-high 144 yards, David Garrard threw two touchdowns passes in his second career start and the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Lions 23-17 in overtime Sunday.

"Everyone needs to demand better of themselves, and I'll just leave it at that right there," Detroit guard Damien Woody said.

Eddie Drummond's two punt returns for touchdowns in the fourth quarter sent the game into overtime, but Detroit's inability to stop the run could have resulted in a rout.

The Lions (4-5) allowed a season-high 239 yards on the ground. "When we've got teams like that down, we've got to step on their necks," Taylor said. "We

should have blown that team out."

The Jags (6-3) led 17-0 in the fourth, but Drummond's second touchdown evened the score with 46 seconds remaining.

Garrard and Jimmy Smith did the most damage in overtime. They hooked up three times for 69 yards on the winning drive, capping it with a 36-yard scoring play in which Smith beat cornerback Dre' Bly on a simple down-and-in pattern.

Smith finished with seven catches for 109 yards and passed James Lofton for 12th on the NFL's career receptions list with 767.

Garrard, meanwhile, proved he's more than just a career backup, or a scrambling quarterback.

"It feels like a dream right now," Garrard said. "I'm still living in the moment. I can't put my thoughts together right now, but it feels good. I hope it's just one more step for me on my quarterbacking resume."

Garrard finished 19-for-36 for

198 yards. He also had 42 yards rushing, adding to Detroit's run-stopping woes.

Washington ran for 156 yards last week against the Lions, and Dallas had 127 the week before.

Taylor gashed them again Sunday, finding open space off tackle all afternoon. He sat out much of the third quarter with leg cramps, but the backups picked up the slack. LaBrandon Toefield gained 41 yards, and rookie Greg Jones added 12 yards and a touchdown.

"We've just got to find a way to make those five or six plays that make such a difference in every game," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said. "We haven't been making those as often as we need to."

Offensively, the Lions were equally ineffective.

Rookie Kevin Jones got all the carries for the first time this season and gained a tough 81 yards.

But he was the lone bright spot. Joey Harrington was sacked twice and was pressured on nearly every passing play. He finished 11-for-33 for 121 yards with an in-

terception and had his streak of games with at least one TD pass snapped at eight.

He had a handful of dropped balls and a few penalties that negated big plays, but he said no one thing posed more problems than anything else.

"It was a combination of everything," said Harrington, whose team was just 2-for-14 on third down. "We started out in too many holes, and the blame is all across the board."

He also didn't get much help from his injury-depleted receiving corps. Rookie Roy Williams, slowed by the ankle he sprained last month against Atlanta, finished with two catches for 64 yards.

Az-Zahir Hakim, starting in place of injured Tai Streets, led the game in the first half with a back injury and did not return.

"It's my responsibility to find out what our offense can do to be productive and score some points, and to be better than we are," Mariucci said. "We've got to find a way to do that."

Fans give all-around effort

WR Brown fills in at CB, intercepts Bledsoe in win vs. Bills

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Troy Brown had had to make a lot of adjustments while playing both sides of the football.

One thing remains the same.

"You always want to score when you get the ball — offense or defense," he said Sunday night after his first career interception — one of four Patriots interceptions in a 29-6 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

Brown intercepted old friend Drew Bledsoe early in the fourth quarter and ran it back 17 yards to the Buffalo 23 before he was caught from behind. Bledsoe connected with Brown for 12 touchdowns and more than 200 passes during their time together with the Patriots, but this was the first time only one of them was happy after the catch.

"That's my man, I won't disrespect him in any way," said Brown, who had the ball from his interception stowed away in his locker after the game. "I would like to see him do well. But I do not want to see him come in here and beat us."

A wide receiver helping out on defense because of injuries in the secondary, Brown caught two passes for 23 yards, the first time in franchise history that a player has had a reception and interception in the same game.

"He's awesome," quarterback Tom Brady, who was 19-for-35 for 233 yards and two touchdowns. "Whatever the coach asks him to do, he does. The interception was awesome."

Adam Vinatieri kicked five field goals, and Corey Dillon ran for 151 yards on 26 carries. Bledsoe threw three interceptions and backup J.P. Losman had one and a fumble against a dominating New England defense.

Bledsoe was just 8-for-19 for 76 yards in all — a quarterback rating of 14.3 in his latest return to Foxboro, where he was the starter for eight seasons before losing his job to Brady in 2001.

The Patriots (8-1) have won two straight since their NFL-best 21-game winning streak ended on Oct. 31 at Pittsburgh. They outgained the Bills 428 yards to 125 and moved two games ahead of the New York Jets in the AFC East.

The Patriots led 20-0 at halftime, scoring on four of their five possessions, while Buffalo (3-6) punted three times and was intercepted twice. The Bills scored only on a punt return — a poor follow-up to their strong 22-7 victory over the Jets.

Even Willis McGahee, who sparked the Bills to three victories in their previous four games, couldn't do much after New England took an early lead. McGahee ran for more than 100 yards in those victories, his only previous pro starts, but was held to 37 yards on 14 carries by the Patriots.

Without any help from the running game, Bledsoe was his usual inept self — 8-for-19 for 76 yards — against his former team, dropping



New England Patriots WR David Givens (87) reaches but can't make the reception as Buffalo Bills' Terrence McGee (24) defends Sunday night in Foxboro, Mass. The Patriots won 29-6.

to 1-5 against the Patriots.

"Not only us," said safety Lawyer Milloy, another former Patriot, "but there are 31 other teams that should be envious of the way they're playing. They have only one loss this year and everyone who plays them has to be ready."

The Patriots, still rolling after last week's 40-22 victory at St. Louis, took a 6-0 lead on field goals of 27 and 24 yards by Vinatieri. On their next series, they marched 75 yards on 11

plays, capped by Brady's 13-yard pass to David Patten.

Bledsoe threw his second interception on the next possession. It was returned 9 yards by Teddy Bruschi, and Brady threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Christian Fauria.

Vinatieri made it 23-0 with a 20-yard field goal in the third quarter. Jonathan Smith then returned Josh Miller's punt 70 yards for a touchdown, but the 2-point conversion attempt failed for Buffalo.

Packers: Late Minnesota comeback falls short

PACKERS, FROM BACK PAGE

The Vikings were stunned by the referee's ruling.

"We thought we had the ball and I don't know what else to tell you," Minnesota coach Mike Tice said. "We thought we had the ball from the get-go. We had a player with the ball, another player on top of him."

Ferguson broke into the open at midfield and thought he had a clear shot at the end zone when Antoine Winfield swooped in and punched the ball away.

"It seemed like the game was gradually slipping out of our hands and going into their grasp," Favre said. "When we broke it right there I said, 'Oh, boy.' You would think you'd been, 'Oh, great.' But until he got on the ground I was not satisfied."

Favre and Daunte Culpepper each threw four touchdown passes without an interception. It was Favre's 18th game with four or more TD tosses, second only to Dan Marino's 21.

Favre hit receiver Jason Walker, tightback Tony Fisher, tight end Bubba Franks and fullback William Henderson in the end zone as the Packers built a 31-17 lead.

"I knew it wasn't enough," Favre said.

Not with Culpepper on the other sideline.

Even though he was working without star receiver Randy Moss (strained hamstring) for the second straight game, Culpepper threw for 363 yards, connecting with Nate Burleson 11 times for 141 yards and a score.

Culpepper's 2-yard short pass to Antonio Smith with 2:53 left made it 31-24. The Vikings held and got the ball back with 2:18 remaining. Culpepper needed just three plays and less than a minute to move Minnesota 58 yards to a 17-yard TD toss to Mo Williams with 1:20 left.

That's when Ferguson fumbled and Steve Statched the ball back.

"It definitely was a little extra special to get ahead against my old team," Statched said. "I was just in the right place at the right time."

For payback.

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, shored Houston for 320 yards and five touchdowns, tying NFL record with his 40th game time share with five TD passes. Vikings' Daunte Culpepper set the record earlier this season.

■ Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers, became the first rookie QB to begin 7-0 since NFL merger in 1970 with a 24-10 win at Cleveland.

■ David Garrard, Jaguars, had two TD passes in his second career start, including a game-winning 36-yarder to Jimmy Smith in overtime in a 23-17 victory over Detroit.

■ Daunte Culpepper, Vikings, completed 27 of 44 passes for 363 yards and four TDs. But Brett Favre, Packers, went 26-of-39 for 239 yards and four TDs as Green Bay won 34-31.

Receivers

■ Brandon Stokely, Colts, had five receptions for 122 yards, and teammate Dallas Clark caught three passes for 102 yards in a 42-6 rout of Houston.

■ The Saints' Joe Horn had five catches for 169 yards, including a decisive 42-yard TD reception, in a 27-20 victory against Kansas City.

■ Isaac Bruce, Rams, had seven catches for 100 yards and the season's 100-yard game of the season.

■ The Falcons' Alge Crenshaw had a career-best 118 yards, in Atlanta defeated Tampa Bay 24-14.

■ The Panthers' Mushi Muhammad caught three touchdowns and had 123 yards receiving as Carolina beat San Francisco 37-21.

■ Nate Burleson, Vikings, caught 11 passes for 141 yards and a score.

Running backs

■ Emmitt Smith, Cardinals, ran for two TDs in a game for the first time in two seasons, leading Arizona past the Giants 17-14.

■ Derrick Baylock, Chiefs, subsided for injured Priest Holmes, ran for 186 yards and a touchdown under New Orleans.

■ Shaun Alexander, Seahawks, had 176 yards, going over 1,000 yards for fourth straight season, but Seattle lost at St. Louis 23-12. Marshall Faulk, Rams, had a season-best 139 yards on 18 carries.

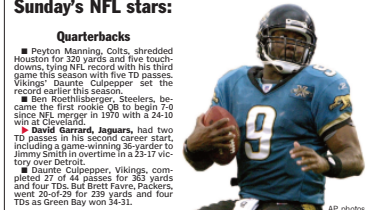
■ Arrian Green, Packers, rushed for 145 yards in 21 carries in a 34-31 win over Minnesota.

■ Fred Taylor, Jaguars, had a season-best 144 yards rushing despite missing most of third quarter with leg cramps in a 27-17 win over the Titans.

■ Deuce McAllister, Saints, rushed for 127 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries against Kansas City.

■ Curtis Martin, Jets, scored twice in the first half and finished 19-30 for 92 yards and 28 carries against Baltimore.

■ Tim Barber, Giants, had 108 yards on 21 carries, but only 28 yards in the second half in a 17-14 loss to Arizona.



AP photos

SPORTS



Despite O'Neal's dismal performance at line, Heat put away Bucks in 2OT, Page 30



Green Bay Packers' Robert Ferguson (89) looks at the ball after fumbling in the final minutes of their game against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis. Ferguson returned the kickoff to midfield, where Antoine Winfield forced a fumble. The officials ruled that Packers tight end Ben Steele, front left, recovered, even though Minnesota's Larry Ned emerged with the ball. The Packers went on to win 34-31.

Packers make key pickup

Fumble recovery by Vikings castoff sets up winning FG

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Ben Steele repaid both the team that believed in him and the one that gave up on him.

The tight end, snatched up by the Green Bay when he was cut by Minnesota in training camp, recovered a fumble that led to Ryan Longwell's 33-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Packers a 34-31 victory Sunday over their bitter rival.

"We stole Steele from them, and he stole the ball from them," Packers guard Marco Rivera said.

Minnesota's Derek Ross certainly felt robbed.

He pounced on the ball when Green Bay's Robert Ferguson fumbled on a kickoff return at midfield with 1:20 left after the Vikings had scored two touchdowns in a 93-second span to tie it. But Steele, who outweighs Ross by more than 50 pounds, fought his

way into the scrum and clutched the ball, too.

The officials eventually ruled Green Bay had possession, and Brett Favre led the Packers on the winning drive for their fourth straight victory. The Vikings lost their third straight game and fell into a tie with the Packers atop the NFC North at 5-4.

"There wasn't any doubt in my mind I had the ball," Steele said. "I wasn't going to give it up until the ref said, '[No.] 82, you've got it.' There was a lot of scratching and clawing. It seemed like an eternity, but there was no way I was going to let go of that sucker."

Ross said he was robbed by referee Ron Winter, plain and simple.

"Clearly, I had the ball. Yeah, we had the ball," Ross said. "I don't think the referee did a good job of getting everybody off the pile to see clearly I had the ball."

SEE PACKERS ON PAGE 35



Packers quarterback Brett Favre celebrates after a 17-yard touchdown pass to Bubba Franks in the second quarter Sunday.

More coverage inside:



■ Rookie Roethlisberger wins seventh straight as Steelers (8-1) show no signs of slowing down against rival Browns, Page 33

■ Ravens ride momentum after Reed's second-quarter interception in end zone to victory over Jets, Page 34

■ WR Brown becomes first Patriot to record reception, interception in same game in victory over Bledsoe, Bills, Page 35

■ Scoreboard, Page 32



BCS computers continue to give Oklahoma slim lead over Auburn for No. 2 ranking

Page 31



Johnson's victory at Darlington sets up grand finale for Nextel Cup

Page 29



Eskandarian scores twice as United win fourth MLS Cup

Page 28

Giants' Bonds is NL MVP for record seventh time Page 31

